MONDAY
November 6, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.262

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

Amidst the festive rush to do more,
this ad reminds you to prioritize that
'one' thing –
a call, a message, a gift,
or a trip back home for your loved ones.

It's time to be with those who matter most.
#OneCelebration

Open Snapchat, point your camera
at the code to unlock the AR experience

J BG-BGE

MONDAY
November 6, 2023

BENGALURU
CITY EDITION
22 Pages ₹ 6.00

THE HINDU

www.thehindu.com

INDIA'S NATIONAL NEWSPAPER SINCE 1878

FOLLOW US
facebook.com/thehindu
twitter.com/the_hindu
instagram.com/the_hindu

Vol.54 • No.262

Printed at » Chennai » Coimbatore » Bengaluru » Hyderabad » Madurai » Noida » Visakhapatnam » Thiruvananthapuram » Kochi » Vijayawada » Mangaluru » Tiruchirapalli » Kolkata » Hubballi » Mohali » Malappuram » Mumbai » Tirupati » Lucknow » Cuttack » Patna

MURDERS OF GAURI, KALBURGI

'Threat-letter writer linked to killers' gang'

SOUTH » PAGE 9

AMID BOUNDARY TALKS

Bhutan King arrives in Delhi

NEWS » PAGE 12

CURBS ON BETTING

Mahadev Book Online among 22 apps banned

NEWS » PAGE 14

DATA POINT

Who goes to Kota's coaching classes and why

Survey shows it's become a NEET coaching hub

OPINION » PAGE 11

EIGHT IN A ROW

Kohli and Jadeja help India outplay Proteas

SPORT » PAGE 17

Submit reports on drought by Nov. 15, CM tells Ministers

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said that in-charge Ministers have been instructed to submit reports to the government on the drought situation in their respective districts by November 15.

Speaking to reporters at Mysuru airport on Sunday, the Chief Minister said he had written to the Ministers to visit all taluks and interact with people and legislators.

Funds

However, he said the State government was not waiting for the Centre to release funds.

"We have already released ₹900 crore for relief work," he said, while regretting that the Centre had not released funds for drought relief.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 6

PM, Kharge lead Mizoram poll campaign on final day

Congress releases Chhattisgarh manifesto ahead of polling for 20 seats tomorrow; Modi, in a video message, promises 'marvellous Mizoram'; Congress president asks voters to be wary of RSS

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/GUWAHATI

The campaigning for the elections to the 40-member Mizoram Assembly and 20 Assembly constituencies in Chhattisgarh came to a close on Sunday ahead of the polling on Tuesday.

Political parties unofficially wound up their canvassing 24 hours ahead of schedule, observing a silent Sunday.

Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Congress president Mallikarjun Kharge released video messages for the voters on the day. Mr. Modi made a pitch for "marvellous Mizoram". Mr. Kharge said it was the Congress that had brought "peace and stability" to the State.

In Chhattisgarh, Mr. Modi, accompanied by former Chief Minister Raman Singh, visited the Maa Bamleshwari temple in Dongargarh.

Poll for all: Wall paintings aimed at creating voter awareness seen in Aizawl on Sunday. RITU RAJ KONWAR

In his video address for Mizoram voters, Mr. Modi said the BJP-led NDA government at the Centre had been trying relentlessly to reduce the psychological and physical distance between New Delhi and Northeast India since 2014.

"We have given priority to realising your dreams and fulfilling your needs. In the past nine years, I have visited the northeast 60 times and the BJP has brought Delhi to the doorsteps of the people of the region," he said. Mr. Kharge, meanwhile, sought to remind the voters that Rajiv Gandhi had signed the historic Mizo accord in 1986 and secured Statehood in 1987.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12
MORE REPORTS
» PAGE 13

As A.P. alters PMAY name, Centre puts ₹4,000 cr. on hold

Sobhana K. Nair
NEW DELHI

Funds not released despite State agreeing to remove its branding and logo from the scheme

The Andhra Pradesh government's decision to add the ruling YSR Congress Party's imprint to the Union government's flagship rural housing scheme – Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-Gramin (PMAY-G) – and rebrand it to Pradhan Mantri Awas Yojana-YSR are proving costly for the State.

Sources said the State government's decision had resulted in the Union Finance Ministry putting a temporary hold on ₹4,000 crore that Andhra Pradesh should get under a scheme for "special assistance to State for capital investment", apart from ₹1,300 crore in pending PMAY-G funds.

The funds have not been released despite the State government agreeing to remove its branding and logo from the scheme.

For an identical violation in West Bengal, where the State government rebranded the scheme as the Bangla Awas Yojana, Central funds have not been released since 2022. This financial year too, funds were not released to West Bengal for the "non-submission of satisfactory compliance of the directives of the Ministry".

The Union Rural Development Ministry wrote its first letter flagging Andhra Pradesh's violation on July 17, noting that instead of PMAY-G, the State had called the scheme PMAY-YSR, and used its own logo alongside the Union government's logo.

CONTINUED ON
» PAGE 12

NEARBY

'Won't saffronise or Congressise our SEP'

SHIVAMOGGA
The State government has constituted a committee to frame the Karnataka State Education Policy, said Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy. "We will not saffronise or Congressise our SEP," he said.
» Page 6

Aishwarya Rai, Anushka Shetty to grace Kambala

BENGALURU
Actors Aishwarya Rai and Anushka Shetty will be among the celebrities making their presence felt at the Kambala in Bengaluru.
» Page 6

EDUCATIONPLUS » PAGE 19

CITROËN
BRIGHTEN UP YOUR CELEBRATIONS WITH CITROËN
Peace of mind guaranteed till 2028
NEW CITROËN C3 AIRCROSS SUV
CITROËN C3
FREE 5 YEARS EXTENDED WARRANTY* & MAINTENANCE CONTRACT*
BENEFITS UPTO ₹99,000*
BOOK NOW | LIMITED FESTIVE PERIOD BENEFITS
NEW CITROËN C3 AIRCROSS SUV
Available in 5 & 5+2 Seating
STARTS AT ₹9.99 LAKH#
Turbocharged Performance
1.2 l Gen III Turbo PureTech Engine with 110 ps Power, 190 Nm Torque
Best-in-Segment^ Wheelbase
2671 mm Wheelbase for Generous Cabin & Boot Space | Flying Carpet Advance Suspension
Advanced Tech Suite
Auto Stop/Start, ESP, Hill Hold & TPMS
CITROËN C3 | STARTS AT ₹6.16 LAKH#
1.2 l Gen III PureTech Turbo 110
Petrol engine with 110 ps Power & 190 Nm Torque
26 cm Citroën Connect Info10ment
Wireless Android Auto™ & Apple CarPlay®
Best-in-Segment^^ Wheelbase
2540 mm Wheelbase for Generous Cabin & Boot Space | Flying Carpet Advance Suspension
BORN FRENCH MADE IN INDIA
CITIZEN SERVICES CITROËN
Anytime Anywhere Access
Virtual remote diagnosis
Periodic Service maintenance with pick-up & drop
180-Minutes RSA guarantee
Remote service job card opening
Service cost estimator on website
Service on wheels
ADVANCED COMFORT CITROËN
BOOK ONLINE @ WWW.CITROEN.IN
BOOK YOUR CITROEN
Happy to hear from you:
1800 267 1000 +91 73585 02839
VISIT LA MAISON CITROËN SHOWROOM TODAY
99 TOUCHPOINTS ACROSS INDIA
Bengaluru: Hosur Road & Millers Road, Ph. No. 70755 52216 | Mangalore: Old Kannur Check Post, Mangalore-Bangalore Highway, Ph No. 72047 52233 | Hubli: Hubli-Dharwad Highway, Rayapur, Ph. No. 93640 11885 | Vellore: Chennai Bangalore Highway, Perumugai, Ph. No. 96555 31377 | Chennai: Mount Road, Ph. No. 95009 33360 | OMR Road, Ph. No. 95009 33360 | Pondicherry: Pondy Cuddalore Road, Ariyankuppam, Ph. No. 93601 77058 | Madurai: Plot No. H1A & H1B, Kappalur SIDCO Industrial Estate, GST Road, Ph. No. 9500884638 | Coimbatore: Mettupalayam Road, Ph. No. 95007 24411 | Calicut: Puthiyangadi, Ph. No. 97440 35353 | Kochi: Maradu, Ph. No. 85939 77777 | Trivandrum: NH Bypass, Karikkakom, Ph. No. 97784 10550 | Hyderabad: Banjara Hills, Ph. No. 7288889949| Nagole: Ph. No. 73311 51666 | Visakhapatnam: NH-5, Akkayapalem, Ph. No. 7997990561
*T&C Apply. #Ex-showroom Price. Images and illustrations are indicative and for informative purposes only. Actual colour of vehicle & upholstery might differ. Accessories shown and features mentioned may not be a part of the standard equipment. All benefits are available from Citroën India dealers and partners. Benefits may vary from variant to variant. Benefits are valid till 30th November 2023 and are subject to change without prior notice. Finance & insurance are at the sole discretion of partners. ^C3 Aircross Mid-size SUV segment is defined as a passenger vehicle with OAL > 4300 mm < 4450 mm with ground clearance > 195 mm. ^^C3 Segment is defined by comparable 5 seater B-HB cars whose length lies between 3500 mm to 3994 mm and width between 1700 mm to 1760 mm, petrol engine capacity from 1000 cc to 1200 cc.

Captain Williamson: ever the selfless cricketer and team player

No one screams 'hit me with your best shot, I'll find a way to quietly get up and get on with it', more than the Tauranga-born batter; whether it's waterboy duties or a warrior-like innings in a crunch game, for New Zealand, Kane is always 'able'

Go-getter: With a heavily strapped thumb and the splint still intact, Williamson took a stunner of a catch. A few minutes later, he was seated in the dugout, taking a breather, with one hand gripping the other with the broken thumb. But a gulp of water, some chatter with one of the boys on the bench later, captain Kane was back on the field. K. MURALI KUMAR

Lavanya Lakshmi Narayanan
BENGALURU

Veteran broadcaster Harsha Bhogle once said this about legendary Indian batter Rahul Dravid – "If you asked Dravid to walk on glass for his team, his only question would be: 'How many miles?' That just shows you how great a man he is."

On Saturday, in Dravid's hometown and at the stadium that has a massive mural dedicated to the current India men's team coach at the administrative entrance, another man stepped into this selfless template – Kane Williamson.

Williamson has had a rocky World Cup so far – first struggling with a knee injury and then managing to fracture his thumb on his return to the cricket pitch against Bangladesh. Back in the team after four games, with a solitary win against Afghanistan and three losses to India, Australia and South Africa in the team's tally, Williamson had his work cut out for him against Pakistan.

Both sides entered the fixture needing a win to solidify their semifinal chances in the tournament. An outright win meant greater security for New Zealand, while Pakistan – even if victorious – still needs other results to confidently get to the first class lounge of this tournament.

Batting alongside a young and eccentric Rachin Ravindra, Williamson quietly stacked up run after run, using his feet well to place and time the ball and find boundaries. While essaying his duties on field, Williamson also crossed the 1000-run mark in ODI World Cups, becoming only the third Kiwi to do so and overtook Stephen Fleming (1075 runs in 33 innings) as the player with most runs for his country in World Cups – 1084 runs in 24 innings. A century would have been the cherry on top for a calm and assured innings that took Pakistan entirely out of the equation for the 23-odd overs (146 balls) Williamson and Ravindra weathered together, but it was not to be.

When asked about missing out on the milestone, Williamson went red in the face.

"Look, I just try and play the role for the team as best I can. And we were certainly in a position where we wanted to accelerate, regardless of what you're on. It's just about trying to do the job for the team and we saw that from a number of guys. Whether you pass a milestone or not, that's probably more for all you people (reporters) in the room. But contributing to the team is certainly the most important thing," he said, a big smile plastered across his face.

Play the role, he did. With a heavily strapped thumb and the splint still intact. Williamson's face doesn't betray the potential pain he may have felt while dealing with Pakistan's short deliveries or diving around on the field. Not even when he took a stunner of a catch, running behind and diving to dismiss Abdullah Shafique wide of mid-off. Ten to fifteen minutes later, we saw the man seated in the dugout, taking a breather, with one hand gripping the other with the broken thumb. A gulp of water, some chatter with one of the boys on the bench and captain Kane was back on the field, ever the busy body.

Even with the bat, the change in gears was evident as Williamson peered through the field for any chance of a run. After taking a little time to settle in, a switch flipped in his head, and the risky - mildly so - running, nudges to the fine leg boundary and his eventual aerial prowess were on show.

The last 65 of his 95 runs came in just 44 balls, as opposed to the first 30 (which came off 35 deliveries). His inside out shots over cover would bring out the classic Italian chef's kiss even if you had no remote connection to the European peninsula nation.

Trailing Ravindra by a good 20 runs for most of their partnership, the two found themselves in the 90s together – an indication that the exalted member of the 'Fab Four or Five, depending on how you count the pantheon (alongside Joe Root, Virat Kohli, Steve Smith and Babar Azam) was not just here to throw in purple prose in New Zealand's 50-over essay.

When asked to take a moment to reveal how he and his creaking body are holding up, Williamson just smiled.

"To be honest, (I'm) not really focusing on those things. It's just more about where we need to be as a team and what we need to try and do and the cricket that we need to play and a lot of good stuff. A lot of teams are playing really, really well. And so, it's important that we keep focusing on our cricket and the challenge that we've got in a few days' time against Sri Lanka," he said.

New Zealand's nice boy image sometimes band-aids their glaring competitive inconsistencies but tournament formats like the one we find ourselves in the middle of only allow you so much space for niceties. What there is room for is grit and persistence.

Fakhar Zaman embodied that for Pakistan and Williamson is that allegory for the Kiwis. No one screams 'hit me with your best shot, I'll find a way to quietly get up and get on with it," more than the Tauranga-born batter. Whether it's waterboy duties or a warrior-like innings in a crunch game, for New Zealand, Kane is always 'able' and that makes all the difference.

THE GIST

- Williamson has had a rocky World Cup so far — first struggling with a knee injury and then managing to fracture his thumb on his return to the cricket pitch against Bangladesh
- New Zealand and Pakistan entered the fixture needing a win to solidify their semifinal chances in the tournament
- Batting alongside a young and eccentric Rachin Ravindra, Williamson quietly stacked up run after run.
- Williamson also crossed the 1000-run mark in ODI World Cups, becoming only the third Kiwi to do so
- A century would have been the cherry on top for a calm and assured innings that took Pakistan entirely out of the equation for the 23-odd overs (146 balls) Williamson and Ravindra weathered together, but it was not to be

Kiwis have followed 2019 script: make a strong start, go on a nosedive

Sankar Narayanan E.H.

Peaking at the right moment is a cliche, but is probably the talking point in the New Zealand dugout as the side is on a four-match losing streak after beginning the 2023 World Cup with four consecutive victories.

With eight points, the Kiwis are in fourth place and a semifinal qualification hinges on other results going in their favour.

The dip in form, after starting so well, may worry the side since something similar had transpired in the 2019 World Cup.

In this year's edition, the Black Caps beat defending champion England convincingly in the opening match.

The side then eased past the Netherlands, Bangladesh and Afghanistan in its next three outings. But they lost steam after going down to host India, Australia and South Africa – teams that are in the top four – on the trot.

However, the match that really wounded the Kiwis was the one against Pakistan as they lost by 21 runs in a rain-curtailed contest. Williamson and Co. would've thought it had done enough after amassing 401 runs in 50 overs.

Fakhar Zaman had other ideas and took the Men in Green to 200 for one in 25.3 overs, a total well past the DLS par. With eight points in its kitty, Pakistan kept its hopes of making the semifinals and compounded New Zealand's mid-tournament woes.

With all four of their wins coming against sides that are presently languishing at the bottom of the table, the Kiwis have failed to spark against the stronger outfits.

Similar tale

In the previous edition, too, the Kiwis had a memorable start, garnering 11 points from six games. They beat Sri Lanka, Bangladesh, Afghanistan, South Africa and the West Indies, and shared points after a washout against India.

A top-two finish was on the horizon, but that dream faded quite quickly as the side was on the wrong side of the result in the final three league matches against Pakistan, Australia, and England.

The Black Caps had lost to all the eventual semifinalists, and Pakistan which finished fifth below New Zealand on net run rate.

New Zealand might not have been among the top four had the Proteas decided to take a review – when Kane Williamson had actually edged an Imran Tahir delivery – for the sixth wicket of the innings when the Kiwis still had 69 runs to chase.

Close call

The team also survived a close call against the West Indies when Carlos Brathwaite muscled the ball straight to Trent Boult on the boundary line with just six runs needed off seven balls. However, no other team understands more clearly why pondering over what would've or could've happened doesn't do anyone any good, as evidenced by the 2019 World Cup final.

With a do-or-die match against Sri Lanka ahead, the injury-hit New Zealand would not want to lose the impetus and stumble into the semifinals like it did in 2019, or even worse, miss out on a top-four spot.

K. MURALI KUMAR

Switch to OnePlus at never before prices

OnePlus 11 5G
Starting from ₹49,999*
*Incl of Bank and other discounts

Get a OnePlus Buds Z2 at no extra cost#
#Offer valid till stocks.

OnePlus Nord 3 5G
Starting from ₹27,999*
*incl. of bank discount

₹3,000 Instant Discount

ICICI Bank Credit Cards & EMIs *T&Cs.

onecard

No Cost EMI upto 12 Months

Red Cable Club
Join Red Cable Club to get exclusive device benefits and offers.

Save upto ₹1,500 using RedCoins*
*on oneplus.in and OnePlus Store App

Spotify Premium
Get 6 months of Spotify Premium for free*
*Limited eligibility

Jio
BENEFITS WORTH ₹4,500
T&C Apply | Applicable on ₹399 Postpaid Plan
Missed Call on 70 000 70 000 for home delivery
Only on OnePlus Nord Devices

Available at oneplus.in | OnePlus Store App
OnePlus Experience Store: OnePlus Boulevard | Forum Mall | RMZ Mall | Jayanagar | Falcon City

Reliance digital | Jio Digital Life | croma | Sangeetha mobiles.com | POORVIKA | Pai MOBILES

amazon specials

https://www.oneplus.in/terms-and-conditions/instant-cashback-1 | *OneCard is issued by select authorised credit card issuers

ਪੰਜਾਬ ਸਰਕਾਰ
ਸਤਯਮੇਵ ਜਯਤੇ
GOVT. OF PUNJAB
Punjab Land of Unlimited Opportunities
Quality Education for All
Investment of 1600 Crores in the Field of Education

1	₹200 Crores for Schools of Eminence	7	₹35 Crores for Campus Managers
2	₹358 Crores for Boundary Walls	8	₹18.19 Crores for Security Guards
3	₹25 Crores for Benches in all Schools	9	₹7.04 Crores for Watchmen
4	₹60 Crores for 6837 New/Renovated Toilets	10	₹21 Crores for Transport Facility
5	₹800 Crores for New/Renovated Classes, Labs and Playgrounds	11	₹29 Crores for Hi-Speed Wi-Fi
6	₹20.26 Crores in the form of Swachh Vidyalaya Fund for cleanliness	12	Artificial Intelligence training for 1 Lakh Students and 10000 Teachers

"We are fully committed to bring Education Revolution in Punjab. We would leave no stone unturned to provide world class education to every student. We would take all necessary steps to turn our vision into a reality."

Bhagwant Singh Mann
Chief Minister, Punjab

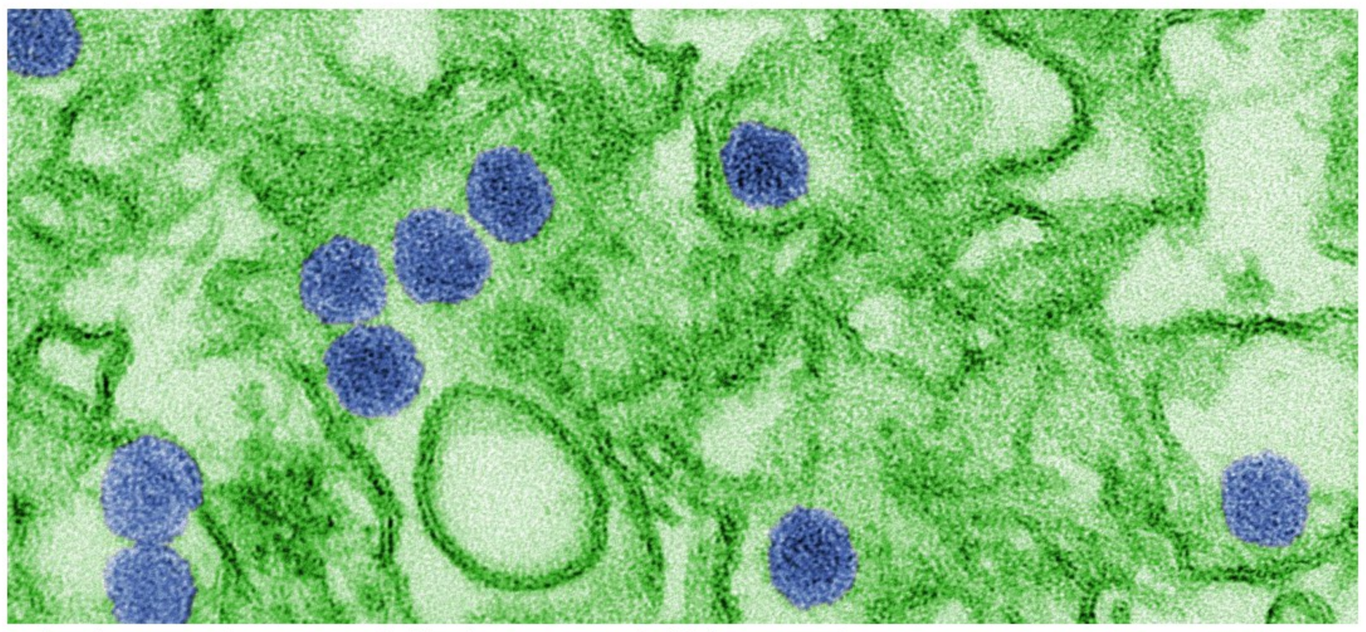
2220/13/170/2023/29516

Department of Information and Public Relations, Punjab

The Zika genome and insights into the era of emerging outbreaks

The Zika virus has an RNA genome, and thus a high potential to accumulate mutations. The tools, techniques, and modalities we have to track the evolution, genetic epidemiology, and molecular underpinnings of transmission and pathogenesis could be extended to Zika outbreaks as well

Sridhar Sivasubbu
Vinod Scaria



A colorised transmission electron micrograph of the Zika virus. Virus particles (blue) are 40 nm wide. U.S. CDC

THE GIST

Researchers isolated the virus in 1947 from monkeys in the Zika forest in Uganda. The first human cases were detected in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania. There have since been outbreaks around the world, largely confined to the tropics

Diagnosis is mostly through genetic testing. An antibody-based test would be complicated because antibodies produced by the infection can cross-react with those of the dengue, yellow fever, and West Nile viruses

Researchers in Tsinghua University suggested in *Cell* that infections of two viruses in primates encourage specific microbes to grow on the skin by suppressing an antimicrobial peptide on the skin. These microbes produce acetophenones that could provide a chemical cue to mosquitoes attracting them towards the individual and supporting transmission of the viruses

The dengue virus and its equally infamous cousin, the Zika virus, together infect up to around 400 million people every year. The Zika virus and genomic studies of it have opened fascinating windows into our knowledge of the infectious disease and its relevance in the context of emerging outbreaks.

The Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus. Most infections in humans are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms, including fever, rash, and joint pain. The Zika virus became notorious during the 2015-2018 outbreak that swept through the Americas. The outbreak was characterised by an alarming increase in the number of microcephaly cases in newborns, prompting the World Health Organisation to declare it a public health emergency of international concern in early 2016.

From Africa, the Zika virus has spread to Asia, Pacific islands, to the Americas, and beyond. The disease has of late been in the headlines with multiple outbreaks in the last few years in multiple Indian states, including, more recently, Kerala and Karnataka.

Researchers isolated the virus in 1947 from monkeys from the Zika forest in Uganda. The first human cases were detected in 1952 in Uganda and Tanzania. There have since been multiple outbreaks around the world, but largely confined to the tropics.

A significant number of insights have come from the Zika virus's genome. Researchers sequenced the complete genome first in 2007. It has more than 10,000 bases of single-stranded RNA. The genome is also peculiar: it encodes for a large polyprotein, which is further cleaved into capsid, membrane precursor (prM), envelope, and seven non-structural proteins.

The diagnosis of a Zika virus infection is mostly through genetic testing. An antibody-based test would be complicated because antibodies produced by the infection can cross-react with those of the dengue (DENV), yellow fever, and West Nile viruses.

Epidemiology and surveillance

The Zika virus has an RNA genome, and thus a very high potential to accumulate mutations. The tools, techniques, and modalities we've developed to track the evolution, genetic epidemiology, and molecular underpinnings of transmission and pathogenesis could be extended to Zika virus outbreaks as well.

Genomic studies have suggested that the Zika virus has two lineages: African and Asian. (The lineage that wreaked havoc in the Americas is a sub-lineage with genomes similar to those of isolates from an outbreak in French Polynesia in 2013-2014.)

In a significant example of the usefulness of genetic surveillance plus sequencing, researchers in the U.S. used active surveillance of travellers to uncover a hidden outbreak in Cuba, and also established its time characteristics. The work was published in *Cell* in August 2019.

Zika and microcephaly

The small heads of children born to infected mothers has been one of the more alarming complications of a Zika virus infection.

Earlier, based on studies with mice, researchers had suggested that a mutation in one of the precursor membrane proteins, called prM, of the Zika virus was associated with microcephaly. Researchers also suspected that this mutation originated during the outbreak in French Polynesia in 2013 before breaking out in South America, causing microcephaly.

However, while the large outbreak in South America was caused by lineages of the virus with the specific mutation, only a subset of the relevant pregnancies resulted in microcephaly. Scientists have since been trying to understand the molecular mechanism that causes microcephaly only in some cases.

The Zika-microcephaly hypothesis also suffered when researchers recorded microcephaly in Thailand following infections of the Asian lineage of the Zika virus that lacked the mutation. Differences in the prevalence of microcephaly across geographical areas in Brazil also suggested that scientists' picture is incomplete.

> The Zika virus is a mosquito-borne flavivirus. Most infections in humans are asymptomatic or with mild symptoms. It became notorious during the 2015-2018 outbreak that swept through the Americas

This said, a study published recently in *Science Translational Medicine*, and conducted with primates, suggested that the foetal Zika virus infections were associated with heavy viral loads during pregnancy, and the viral load strongly influenced foetal growth. In another recent study in the same journal, researchers again used primate models to suggest that preexisting antibodies against DENV could worsen the severity of congenital Zika.

Taken together, the findings underscore the importance of the viral load and DENV infections for the occurrence of microcephaly.

Making it attractive

Zika virus and DENV infections are interesting in their own right. In a beautiful demonstration of the interplay between organisms with significant public health consequences, researchers in Tsinghua University, suggested in a recent study in *Cell* that infections of two viruses in primates encourage specific microbes to grow on the skin by suppressing an antimicrobial peptide, RELM, on the skin. These microbes produce acetophenones, which are volatile molecules that could provide a chemical cue to mosquitoes, attracting them towards the individual and supporting forward transmission of the viruses.

The researchers also reported that administering isotretinoin could upregulate RELM and reverse this phenomenon.

Zika virus and DENV interactions have also been an interesting area of research. A significant body of evidence suggests that a Zika virus infection can significantly increase the risk for severe dengue. Researchers exposed a large cohort of people in Nicaragua to both Zika and DENV one after the other, and found that while high levels of anti-DENV antibodies were protective, intermediate levels due to a prior Zika or DENV infection could significantly enhance the severity of dengue infections. This observation is of great public health significance because Zika and dengue circulate around the planet, and could inform the design of Zika vaccines.

As climate change helps drive the spread of vector borne diseases, and global warming brings environmental conditions that favour them to new places, our genomic technologies and such deep insights into the molecular pathogenesis of these viruses will be an important guiding light.

(The authors are senior consultants at the Vishwanath Cancer Care Foundation. All opinions expressed here are personal.)

BIG SHOT

This aerial view shows a burnt forest in the Evros region, near the village of Dadia in Greece, on October 26, 2023. The European Union has said that the Dadia fire was the largest in Europe's recorded history, ravaging more than 900 sq. km of land in three days, including a large chunk of a biodiverse ecosystem, and destroyed swathes of pasture land. AFP

WHAT IS IT?

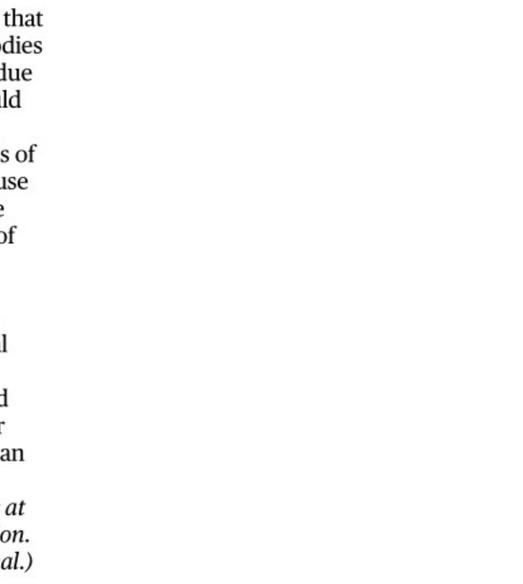
Wolbachia: an unlikely hero

Vasudevan Mukunth

Wolbachia is a genus of bacteria that has evolved complex relationships with the many insects that can host it. It is named for the American pathologist Simeon Burt Wolbach, who identified it along with Marshall Hertig in 1924.

In 1971, researchers discovered that when male *Culex* mosquitoes infected by *Wolbachia* bacteria fertilised healthy eggs from a female, the eggs died. The bacteria modified the male's sperm cells in a way that only the bacteria could reverse. So if the female mosquito was uninfected, her egg cells would be damaged. But if the female was infected by *Wolbachia*, the eggs would be viable if the male was uninfected or infected by the same strain of *Wolbachia*. This means infected female mosquitoes gain a reproductive advantage over time as the amount of *Wolbachia* in the population increases.

Wolbachia can also reduce the rate at which chikungunya and yellow fever viruses multiply in infected mosquitoes. Scientists have also found that some *Wolbachia* species can strongly protect some mosquito species against the malaria parasite. So they are currently studying a way to have the right strain of *Wolbachia* rapidly spread in a particular mosquito population, in the right environmental conditions, such that the bacteria can suppress malaria transmission. If this is achieved, it will be a significant weapon in our millennia-long fight against mosquito-borne diseases.



A mosquito on a child's arm. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

For feedback and suggestions
for 'Science', please write to
science@thehindu.co.in
with the subject 'Daily page'

Resident of de-addiction centre found dead; kin say he was tortured

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 52-year-old resident of a de-addiction centre was found dead under mysterious circumstances at the centre at Lakshmipura in Madanayakanahalli on Sunday.

The family of the deceased, identified as Palaniswamy from Mavalli, accused the staff of torture that led to his death.

According to the police, Palaniswamy was an alcoholic and his family admitted him to the centre 12 days ago and paid ₹15,000 as the fee.

The Madanayakanahalli police are awaiting the post-mortem report.

Geologist with Dept. of Mines and Geology found murdered at home

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 45-year-old senior geologist working at the Department of Mines and Geology was found murdered at her house in Doddakallsandra in Subramanyapura police station limits on Sunday.

The victim, identified as Prathima K.S., was living alone.

Investigation revealed that Prathima returned home from work and the driver left for his house after dropping her and parking the official vehicle near her house.

The murder came to light when her brother called her and when he got no response, went to her house to find her dead in a pool of blood with her throat slit.

The police rushed to the spot, gathered CCTV camera footage and shifted the body for post-mortem. Initial probe revealed that someone known to her could have murdered her.

The police are questioning the domestic help to gather more information to ascertain the cause of murder.

IEW INDIA ENERGY WEEK 2024
6-9 Feb | Goa, India
ONGC Jeetega Toh Jeetega India
ONGC Foundation
ENERGIZING YOUR DREAMS
ONGC SCHOLARSHIP SCHEME
for 2000 Meritorious Students
Scholarship worth ₹ 48,000/- per annum
Academic year 2023-24
For students pursuing professional courses in *Engineering*, *MBBS* and *Master's degree courses in MBA, Geology and Geophysics*.
50% of scholarships are reserved for girl students.
Eligibility Criteria :
- Students admitted in academic year 2023-24
- Minimum 60% in 12th for UG students and 60% in graduation for PG students
- The scholarship is admissible for full-time regular courses only
- Gross family income of less than INR 4.5 for SC/ST and 2 lakh for OBC, GEN/EWS
- Age limit: 30 years of as on 16th October 2023
Start and Last Date of Application:
16 Oct 2023-30 Nov 2023
For further details, please visit www.ongcscholar.org or scan the QR code
APPLY NOW
For step by step process, scan for video
Note : Active mobile number, e-mail ID and bank account details should be provided while applying.

SRI CHAMUNDESHWARI MEDICAL COLLEGE, HOSPITAL & RESEARCH INSTITUTE
Dedicated to Life
Sri Chamundeshwari Medical College, Hospital & Research Institute
Bengaluru-Mysore Highway, Channapatna
Management, Staff and Students invite you all for the
Inauguration of
Sri Chamundeshwari Medical College Hospital & Research Institute
In the August Presence of

Jagadguru
Sri Sri Sri Dr. Nirmalanandanatha Mahaswamiji
Sri Adichunchanagiri Mahasamsthana Math, Karnataka

Sri. H. D. Kumaraswamy
Hon'ble M.L.A of Channapatna & Former Chief Minister of Karnataka

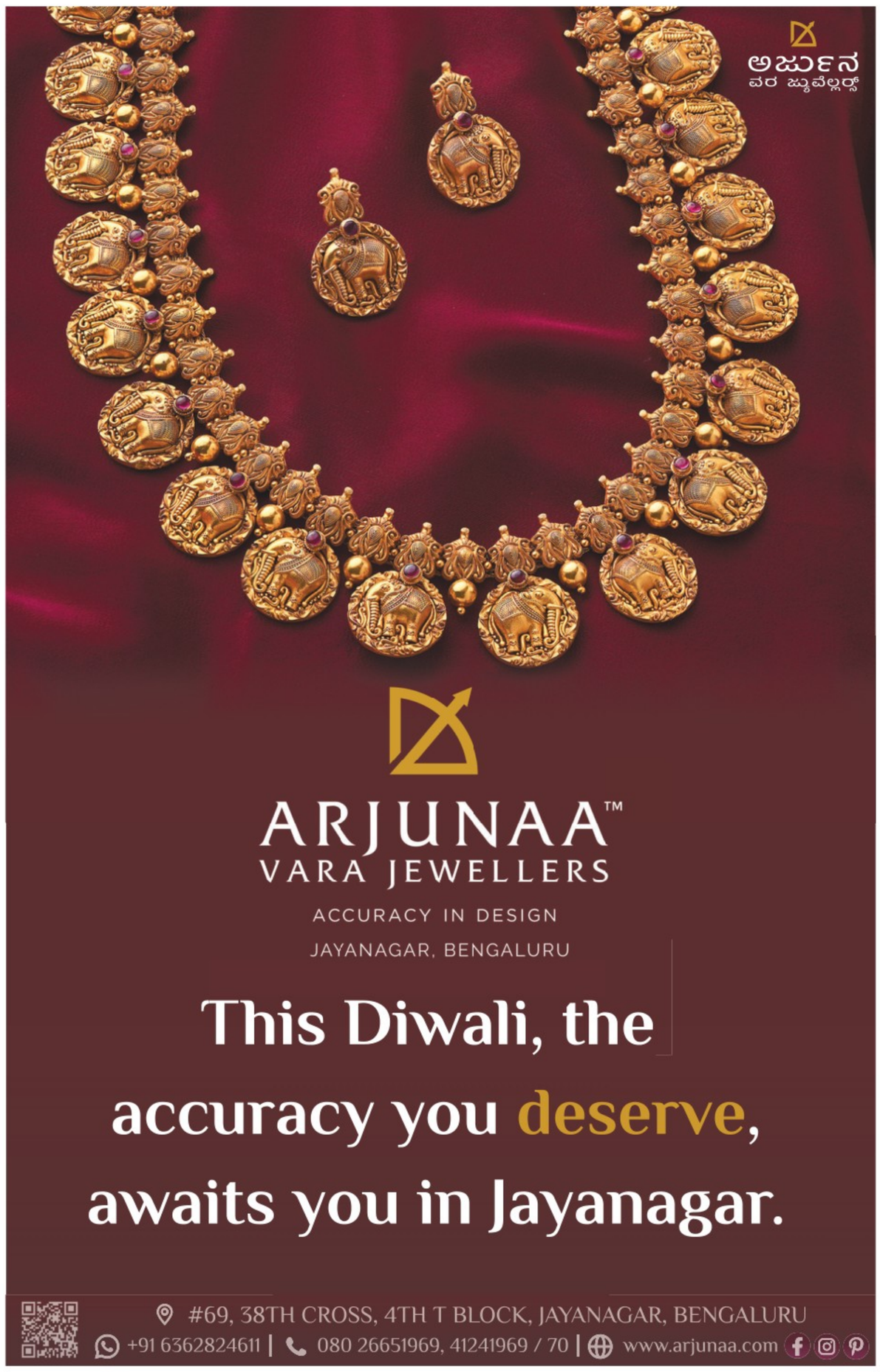
Sri. D. K. Suresh
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bangalore Rural

Sri. Tejasvi Surya
Hon'ble Member of Parliament, Bangalore South

Dr. A.C. Shanmugam
B.A. LLB, FIMSA, FRCPS (Glasgow, UK)
Founder Chairman, SCMCH & RI

Sri. A.C.S. Arun Kumar
B.Tech (Hons)., LMISTE., LMCSI., MIEEE, MCSI, MISTE, CEng (India)
President, SCMCH & RI

Smt. S. Lalitha Lakshmi
Managing Trustee
Sri Ranga Educational Trust
All Are Cordially Invited
Ad6


ಅರ್ಜುನ
ವರ ಜ್ಯುವೆಲ್ಲರ್ಸ್
ARJUNAA™
VARA JEWELLERS
ACCURACY IN DESIGN
JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU
This Diwali, the accuracy you deserve, awaits you in Jayanagar.
#69, 38TH CROSS, 4TH T BLOCK, JAYANAGAR, BENGALURU
+91 6362824611 | 080 26651969, 41241969 / 70 | www.arjunaa.com

NECC DAY
Late Dr. B. V. Rao
(1935-1996)
On his 88th Birth Anniversary,
we salute the Father of Indian Poultry Industry
Padmashree Dr. B. V. Rao, Who rose above and
beyond the call of duty and restructured
the Indian Poultry Industry as a modern,
Scientific Industry driven by technology.
On this occasion, we rededicate ourselves to
his dreams - making India the
No. 1 country in
the World of Poultry...
NECC
NATIONAL EGG CO-ORDINATION COMMITTEE
"My Egg, My Price, My Life"

Text&Context

THE HINDU

NEWS IN NUMBERS

Virat Kohli's centuries in One Day Internationals

49 Virat Kohli on Sunday equalled Sachin Tendulkar's record of most ODI centuries with his 49th hundred in the World Cup match against South Africa. Kohli took 277 innings to hit his 49th century. PTI

The losses to Afghan farmers after Taliban banned poppy

1 in $ billion. Afghanistan was the world's biggest opium producer when the Taliban seized power in August 2021. They pledged to wipe out the country's drug cultivation industry and imposed a formal ban in April 2022. AP

Number of opposition figures arrested in Bangladesh

8,000 Bangladesh police have arrested the opposition figures in a nationwide crackdown. The detentions come ahead of a general election due in January. AFP

Number of people killed by bombing in a refugee camp

30 More than 30 people were killed in an Israeli bombing on the Al-Maghazi camp in central Gaza. The Health Ministry of Gaza says more than 9,480 Gazans have been killed in Israeli strikes. AFP

Amount for which the IOC acquired Mercator Petroleum

148 In ₹ crore. Mercator Petroleum Limited has an on-land oil and gas exploration block in Cambay Basin, Gujarat. PTI

COMPILED BY THE HINDU DATA TEAM

Follow us facebook.com/thehindu twitter.com/the_hindu instagram.com/the_hindu

Clear contrast in Congress and BJP's social media strategies in Rajasthan

With Rajasthan's State elections just around the corner, the Lokniti-CSDS study on the social media accounts affiliated with the BJP and Congress reveals a more negative campaign by the former

LOKNITI CSDS SURVEY

Sanjay Kumar
Aditi Singh
Kaushiki Singh
Avika Singh

As Rajasthan State elections are just around the corner, social media platforms have become sources of information dissemination and political campaigning. The purpose of this study is to discern the kind of information posted by accounts affiliated with specific political parties. A total of twenty accounts were monitored, 10 from the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and 10 from Congress. These accounts included the handles of party leaders, Opposition party members, MLAs, party workers, State official accounts, and party supporters. A majority of the posts recorded were from X, formerly known as Twitter, followed by Facebook.

All the posts were categorised as positive, negative, neutral, and mixed. Posts were categorised as positive if they were about the accomplishment of the party. Negative posts included those criticising the other party for their shortcomings and neutral posts were general updates about visits and greetings. The mixed category included posts which were simultaneously commending the party and attacking the other party (Table 1).

Active social media prescence

Out of the 1,047 posts recorded, 510 were from the BJP, and 537 were from Congress. Both parties mostly posted photos and videos, with 93% of the posts being visual-based. However, it was observed that the BJP had a more robust social media team as they have posted multiple videos tailored towards their campaign in Rajasthan.

Out of the ten BJP accounts observed, the most active was the party's State account, @BJP4Rajasthan on X. The account was the source of 41% of the total BJP posts recorded. Upon further analysis, it was found that 21% of the account's posts were positive, 48% were negative, and 25% were neutral. In comparison, the Congress party's State account, @INCRajasthan on X, was the source of 21% of total Congress posts recorded. Nearly 23% of the posts from the account were positive, 21% were negative, and 52% were neutral.

For Congress, the most active accounts were of the party workers, as 32% of the total recorded posts were from such accounts; 23% of posts from party workers were positive, 43% were negative, and 19% per cent were neutral. Comparatively, only 21% of the BJP's total recorded posts were from its party workers; 11% of the posts from such accounts were positive, 40% were negative, and 43% were neutral.

What are they posting on?

The top categories of Congress's positive posts were about schemes and decisions, predicting poll results, public speeches and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot. The Congress mainly posted about the accomplishments of the Cheeranjivi Yojana, the Old Pension Scheme, the blood bank initiative, and providing free electricity up to 100 units (Table 2). Based on these accomplishments, Congress has appealed for votes under the slogan '*Kaam kiya dil se, Congress firse.*' *(we have worked from our heart, vote congress again).*

The negative posts by Congress accounts were mainly about the BJP as a whole, their schemes and decisions, exposing fake news, and Prime Minister Narendra Modi (Table 3). Initially, Congress had criticised the BJP for spreading hate speech and false propaganda. However, as of late, such tweets are generally directed towards the internal divide within the BJP and the lack of a strong CM candidate.

As for the BJP, the top three categories for positive posts were about the Prime Minister, schemes and decisions, updates, and party structure (Table 4).

The negative posts were mainly about governance, law and order, and corruption. BJP's criticisms have mainly centred around law and order in the State (Table 5). A majority of these concerns are related to women's safety and atrocities against Dalits. Congress's posts on the issue are a mere 1%. However, it is imperative to note that most of the comments under BJP's negative posts about law and order issues in Rajasthan are usually about BJP's silence on Manipur and the atrocities against women in Uttar Pradesh.

Another concern taken up by the BJP in criticism of Congress has been the rampant corruption in the State, as there have been several raids including but not limited to the residence of Govind Singh Dostara, Ashok Gehlot's son. These allegations have also been made in the form of newspaper clippings, videos, and caricatures.

The religious angle

One of the recent trends observed after the announcement of election dates was an increase in religious posts, majorly due to Navratri. Out of the total religious posts recorded, 62% per cent were from the BJP, and 38% were from Congress.

Only 18% of the total religious posts were negative; the rest were navratri greetings. Out of the total negative religious posts, 70% were from BJP, and 30% were from Congress. The negative religious posts from BJP have attacked Congress for failing to protect 'Hindu sentiments' within the State as priests have been attacked and Section 144 had been imposed within the State multiple times during Hindu festivals. Only a mere 3% of the total posts recorded were about temple visits, of which 63% were by BJP accounts and 37% were by Congress accounts.

A major recent trend observed in Congress's campaign was the increased focus on the Eastern Rajasthan Canal Project, as it has become one of the main issues taken up by Congress to undermine BJP's presence in the State; 8% of Congress's total posts have been about the issue. Various Congress's public speeches centred around the same, including the addresses given by Priyanka Gandhi and Malllikarjun Kharge.

Of the total posts recorded by the BJP, 6% were about Mr. Modi, despite it being State elections. This was due to the lack of a strong CM candidate from the party and the sidelining of popular candidates such as Vasundhara Raje. Thus, most posts appealing for votes have been in the name of PM Modi. In comparison, 5% of the total posts from Congress were about Ashok Gehlot, and only 1% were about Rahul Gandhi.

As elections are approaching soon, these trends and observations may be subject to change. These findings provide a preliminary overview of how political parties use social media platforms as a means of communication and campaign tool in the run-up to elections.

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at CSDS, Aditi Singh teaches at Jindal University, Kaushiki Singh and Avika Singh are short-term researchers with Lokniti-/CSDS

The online battlefield in Rajasthan

In full force: BJP workers and supporters during a rally for the filing of nomination papers of a party candidate for the upcoming Rajasthan Assembly elections in Ajmer on November 3. PTI

Table 1: The proportion of positive, negative, and neutral posts made by the Congress and BJP

Nature of the posts	Congress (Total posts recorded - 537)	BJP (Total posts recorded - 510)
Positive	35%	22%
Negative	25%	32%
Neutral	32%	42%
Mixed	8%	4%

Table 2: The positive posts made by Congress

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
Schemes and decisions	36%
Prediction of poll results	11%
Public speeches	11%
Ashok Gehlot	10%
Other party members	9%
Governance	6%
Party structure	3%
Manifesto	3%
Temple visits	3%
Gender	2%
Caste	2%
Rahul Gandhi	2%
Updates	1%
Cannot ascertain	1%

Table 3: The negative posts made by Congress

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
Party	33%
Schemes and decisions	24%
Exposing fake news	10%
Narendra Modi	8%
Governance	5%
Other party members	4%
Gender	3%
Religion	3%
Law and order	3%
Corruption	2%
Prediction of poll results	1%
Public speeches	1%
Manifesto	1%
Caste	1%
Cannot ascertain	1%

Table 4: The positive posts made by the BJP

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
Narendra Modi	22%
Schemes and decisions	19%
Updates	16%
Party	13%
Governance	7%
Manifesto	5%
Temple visits	5%
Prediction of poll results	4%
Other party members	3%
Corruption	1%
Public speeches	1%
Cannot ascertain	4%

Table 5: The negative posts made by the BJP

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
Governance	24%
Law and order	19%
Corruption	13%
Other party members	12%
Ashok Gehlot	7%
Schemes and decisions	6%
Party	6%
Religion	5%
Public speeches	3%
Caste	2%
Exposing fake news	2%
Rahul Gandhi	1%

Of the total posts made by the BJP, 6% were about Prime Minister Narendra Modi, despite it being a State election. This was due to the lack of a strong CM candidate from the party and the sidelining of popular candidates such as Vasundhara Raje

THE GIST

- Out of the ten BJP accounts observed, the most active was the party's State account, 'BJP4Rajasthan' on X. The account was the source of 41% of the total BJP posts recorded.
- The top categories of Congress's positive posts were about schemes and decisions, predicting poll results, public speeches and Rajasthan Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot.
- One of the recent trends observed after the announcement of election dates was an increase in religious posts, majorly due to Navratri. Out of the total religious posts recorded, 62% per cent were from the BJP, and 38% were from Congress.

Timings
BENGALURU

MONDAY, NOV. 06	
RISE	06:15 SET 17:52
RISE	00:29 SET 13:28
TUESDAY, NOV. 07	
RISE	06:15 SET 17:52
RISE	01:18 SET 14:04
WEDNESDAY, NOV. 08	
RISE	06:15 SET 17:51
RISE	02:04 SET 14:39

Bengaluru Weather	max	min
Tumakuru	31	24
Mysuru	32	22
Bengaluru	31	21

Bengaluru Today
29°C The weather will be slight warm and humid. Night will be pleasant. Spell of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower is likely to occur.

Bengaluru Tomorrow
28°C A comfortable but humid weather to prevail. Night will be pleasant. Chances of moderate to heavy rain and thundershower.

© Copyright Skymet Weather 2023
All rights reserved.

THE HINDU
DISCLAIMER: Readers are requested to verify and make appropriate enquiries to satisfy themselves about the veracity of an advertisement before responding to any published in this newspaper. THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., the Publisher & Owner of this newspaper, does not vouch for the authenticity of any advertisement or advertiser or for any of the advertiser's products and/or services. In no event can the Owner, Publisher, Printer, Editor, Director/s, Employees of this newspaper/company be held responsible/liable in any manner whatsoever for any claims and/or damages for advertisements in this newspaper.

BU to establish separate placement cell

The university has already approached over 250 multinational companies for campus selection for this academic year and it says the response has been positive

Jayanth R.
BENGALURU

Bangalore University (BU) has decided to set up a separate placement cell on the Jnanabharathi campus to provide employment opportunities to students.

The university has already approached over 250 multinational companies (MNCs) for campus selection for this academic year and said it had received a positive response.

Bangalore University was conducting placement activities in collaboration with University Visvesvaraya College of Engineering (UVCE), which was affiliated to the university earlier.

> Earlier, our placement activities were done by UVCE, which was an affiliated college. But, they provided placements only for Computer-related courses. We have many Science courses for which there are a lot of placement opportunities. Our placement cell will concentrate more on Science courses.
>
> **MURALI,**
> Placement coordinator of Bangalore University

After the trifurcation of the university in 2017 and the separation of UVCE from Bangalore University, the placement activities slowed down.

The university has now decided to speed up the placement activities with a separate cell.

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Murali, the placement coordinator of Bangalore University, said, "Earlier, our placement activities were done by UVCE, which was an affiliated college. But, they provided placements only for Computer-related courses like MCA. We have many Science courses for which there are a lot of placement opportunities. Our placement cell will concentrate more on Science courses, particularly Mathematics, Computer Science, Statistics, and Electronics."

"There is always demand for Science students in MNCs. System modelling companies need students with a Mathematics background, and some companies will be expecting students from a Statistics background. The companies working on hardware seek Electronics students. To cater to the companies' requirement, we decided to set up a separate recruitment cell for Science courses," he explained.

M.S. Jayakara, Vice-Chancellor of Bangalore University, said, "Earlier, only a few students from Commerce, Chemistry, Physics, and Computer Science were recruited. Now, we are planning to put some efforts to improve the recruitment in other courses also. We understand that in today's competitive market, an increasing number of employers expect students to be equipped better. Our university placement cell will be involved in supporting students by giving practical experience. We will also arrange for some interactions with industries and provide necessary training under Koushalya Karnataka and other institutions."

Students of the university have welcomed the move.

"Most students in Bangalore University come from socially, economically backward sections. After graduation, it is very difficult to find a job. We hope that the placement cell will help all students get good jobs," said Nandini, an MSc (Chemistry) student from the Jnanabharathi campus.

Pruthvi, an MSc (Computer Science) student, said, "After UVCE became an autonomous institution, the university had stopped placement activities. Now, the university has given the good news that it will open a placement cell. Along with this, the university should provide some skill development activities, which will be helpful to get good jobs."

Ragpicker finds bundles of fake U.S. dollars

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

When Saleman S.K., 39, from West Bengal and living in a labour colony in Hebbal, went to pick up plastic materials on the Nagawara railway track on Thursday, he found a clean plastic cover with lots of bills.

Mr. Saleman opened the packet and inhaled some chemical, and fell sick. He further found 23 bundles of currency along with a note neatly wrapped in the cover. It turned out to be $3 million.

As he began to feel sick, he managed to get home along with the packet and slept off. He took two days to recover and later informed Kaleemullah R., a city-based social activist.

Mr. Kaleemullah took him and the plastic cover to hand it over to the City Police Commissioner. After a close examination of the currency, the police revealed that the notes were fake and part of the infamous "black dollar scam".

The police have asked Mr. Saleman to show the place where he found the packet to initiate a probe.

Local dialects, languages add variety to Kannada content space

Jahnavi T.R.
BENGALURU

Be it Ramamurthy uncle with his English-Kannada mix or Nandini who danced to the tune of the popular Barbie song's Kannada recreation, characters made by content creators from Karnataka have been gaining national recognition now.

In the last few years, the Kannada content space has gotten richer with creators from all over the State coming to the forefront with various dialects and languages of Karnataka.

For most of these creators, making content in Kannada came naturally.

For instance, Danish Sait, a pioneer in this space, said, "I always knew regional was the way to go. The heartland is where the numbers are. When you appeal to the local sensibility, the world gets on it. Discoverability is at its peak now and people are open to the culture that they did not grow up with. I got AB de Villiers to sing a Dr. Rajkumar song. That was an iconic thing. When the world is watching, why not present my local content," he asked.

> Most people get the nuances of the language wrong. I think my content provides an opportunity to easily fix these small things.
>
> **ARYA V.**

> I attend many functions as I feel any get-together is a breeding ground for content. But as it is comedy, I also exaggerate it a little bit.
>
> **SONU VENUGOPAL**

> A lot of people are now familiar with our slang which is not predominantly used in Bengaluru.
>
> **PAVAN KRISHNA KULKARNI, KNOWN AS UDAAL PAVYA**

> The heartland is where the numbers are. When you appeal to the local sensibility, the world gets on it.
>
> **DANISH SAIT**

Content is the key

But creators agree that success depends on the content. Vikas, popularly known as Vickypedia, whose 'Naanu Nandini' became a sensation overnight, said, "Audiences are very receptive to content in regional languages because they can connect with the content presented. We have audiences from other States mainly for how it is presented and the stories we tell. I also get comments where viewers mention that they are picking up the language through our videos."

While they do not really use content as a teaching tool, creators said that they look at it as a way to fix common misconceptions about their native region and mispronunciations.

Arya V., a creator from Bengaluru who lives in Canada, said with audiences from everywhere, content creators can do quite a bit to enhance the reach of the language itself, while also helping non-native speakers get the nuances right.

"Most people get the nuances of the language wrong because they are not aware. Some mispronounce dosa or say Kannad out of a lack of awareness. I think my content provides an opportunity to fix these small things," she said. Although her mothertongue is Malayalam, Ms. Arya identifies herself as a "true blue Bengalurean."

Wave of diversity

Diversifying this space is content in other languages of Karnataka - Tulu, Konkani, Beary, and Kodava *takk*. For these creators, this is a way of shedding some light on the culture and elements that are unique to them.

"In Kodagu, there are only a handful of creators who produce content in Kodava *takk*. I create content related to our culture to ensure it resonates with the younger generation, who might be drifting away from our traditions and customs. These may be small steps, but their impact can be significant when pursued consistently," said Bishen Ponnanna, a content creator from Kodagu.

Different slang

Pavan Krishna Kulkarni, known as Udaal Pavya on social media, famous for his Uttara Karnataka content, said the slang varies in different places.

"When we write our script, the slang is organically integrated into the content. A lot of people are now familiar with our slang which is not predominantly used in Bengaluru," he added.

The creation of content for a larger audience while also keeping it authentic is a challenge.

Popular stand-up comic and content creator Sonu Venugopal presented a unique way of her research:

"I attend as many functions as possible as I feel that any get-together is a breeding ground for content. But as it is comedy, I also exaggerate it a little bit. When it comes to certain words that I might not be aware of, I ask my mother who checks it with my grandmother"

Krishna Jorapur, also known on Instagram as GJ Krish, said that while there is no dearth of content, when it comes to infotainment, more Kannada creators are needed as there is a large Kannada audience base.

Residents 'spot' leopard off NICE Road

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Days after an elusive leopard, which was wandering in AECS Layout and Kudlu Gate near Singasandra area since October 28, was shot dead by forest officials during its capture, another leopard has been reportedly sighted in Chikkathogur off NICE Road.

Staff of a relocation firm reportedly sighted the leopard on Saturday night, besides a resident who is also said to have spotted the big cat near a temple in Chikkathogur.

Residents have also spotted pug marks of the animal and have alerted officials about the sighting.

Chief Conservator of Forest (CCF) S.S. Lingaraja confirmed to *The Hindu* that residents of the locality have informed the Forest Department about the sightings, but said these are yet to be verified.

"People have been telling us that they have sighted a leopard in the area. But it is not yet verified," said Mr. Lingaraja.

Asked if search teams have been deployed to track the leopard, he said, "Only when it is verified that there is a sighting, we will deploy teams. As of now, it is not verified."

Festive time

People taking part in the 'Dasara Poo Pallakki', a car festival, passing through Sarvagnanagara area, Cox Town on Sunday.
K. MURALI KUMAR

Road rage: Bikers beat up cab driver

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A 38-year-old cab driver was allegedly dragged out and beaten up by two bikers in a road-rage incident on Hosur service road on Friday night.

The victim, Dhananjaya H.K., was ferrying two passengers from Koramangala to Begur around 8.30 p.m. He stopped at the Kudlu gate signal after it turned red. Two bikers behind his cab started honking for him to move, but Mr. Dhananjaya ignored them, said the police.

The duo confronted him, abused him verbally, and dragged him out of the car and began to hit him after which he collapsed on the ground. The duo soon fled while the two passengers helped take Mr. Dhananjaya to a private hospital and informed his relatives, said the police.

CLASSIFIEDS MART

TO ADVERTISE VISIT
www.thehinduads.com
CALL: Bengaluru: 98455 29981 • 080-22071826
Mangaluru: 0824-2417575 • 2417580
Hubballi: 0836-2338600 • 2335700

WATER PROOFING

WE-FIX: Leaking Roof, Tank, Sump, Bathroom, Skylight, House Painting, Tiling, Carpentry, Epoxy, Civil Works. 9448572697

TENDERS

KERALA STATE CENTRE FOR ADVANCED PRINTING AND TRAINING
Head Office Complex, Vattiyoorkavu, Thiruvananthapuram, Ph: 2365678, 2365415
CAPT/1375/2023-02(OUTSOURCE)
e-TENDER NOTICE
2 Cover e-tenders (Re-Tender No. 144/23-24) are invited from the leading printing presses to undertake printing and supply of Poster, through online vide e-Tender id. 2023_CAPT_617093_2. Due date & Time of tender / bid submission (online) 06.11.2023 up to 11.00 AM. For detailed information log on the website:
https://etenders.kerala.gov.in & www.captkerala.com
04.11.2023 Sd/-MD, C-apt

READ SPORTSTAR
EVERY FORTNIGHT.
TO SUBSCRIBE, VISIT
www.thehindugroup.in/subscribe

PUBLIC NOTICE

PUBLIC NOTICE
This is to inform to the general public that our client Sri A. Manju, S/o Late Devaratti Annaiah Gowda, residing at Hanyalu Village, Anandur Post, Arkalgud Taluk, Hassan Dist. intends to purchase the Schedule Property mentioned hereunder.
Any person/s claiming to have any right, title, interest, charge, lien or minor claim whatsoever over the Schedule Property, may lodge his/her/their claim to the undersigned with documentary proof within FIFTEEN DAYS of this publication, offering their objections, if any, failing which our clients will treat that there are no objections or claim in respect of the Schedule Property and will proceed with the purchase of the Schedule Property. No claims shall be entertained thereafter.
SCHEDULE PROPERTY
All that part and parcel of immoveable property, bearing Survey Nos. 71, 72, 72/1, 72/2, 72/3, 72/4 and 72/5, situated in Mahatma Gandhi Road and Temple Road, Somwarpet, Town, Kodagu District, totally measuring 41 cents (0.41 acres), along with house, buildings and structures, etc. thereon and bounded by: East by: Properties of Smt. M.I. Zeenath, West by: Properties of Sri B.N. Jayaram, North by: Mahatma Gandhi Road, South by: Temple Road (Main Road).
G. Balaji Naidu & A. Manjunatha
Advocates
for Law Mate Advocates & Solicitors
#136/3, K.R. Madhav Heights, Ground Floor, adjacent to Jesse College, TC Palya Main Road, Ramamurthy Nagar, Bangalore-560016.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 29)
O.S. No. 25711/2023
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M.G. Road, Bangalore-560001
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
1. Mr. A. Manohar
S/o Balappa, Aged 30 years
Geetha Janardhan Building, Beside Gangamma Temple, 2nd Cross, VB Layout, K. R. Puram, Bengaluru-560036. ...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas, the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 3,49,471.47 (Rupees Three Lakhs Forty Nine Thousand Four Hundred Seventy One and paisa Forty Seven Only) apart from future interest of 24% in O.S. No. 25711/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 29, Before 57th Addl. City Civil Court Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 08th day of December, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence, Exparte.
Given under my Hand and Seal of the Court this the 27th day of October, 2023.
By the order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 29)
O.S. No. 25708/2023
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
1. Mr. Pradeepan
S/o Mr. Sundaralingam Seelaih
Aged about 43 years
No. 2, Ground Floor, 8th Main Maruthi Layout, BTM 1st Stage Taverekere, Bangalore-560029. ...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 3,37,424.42/- (Rupees Three Lakhs Thirty Seven Thousand Four Hundred Twenty Four and paisa Forty Two Only) apart from future interest of 24% p.a, in O.S. No. 25708/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH 29, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 07th day of December, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence Ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 27th day of October, 2023.
By the order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005.

LEGAL NOTICE

IN THE COURT OF CITY CIVIL JUDGE, MAYO HALL AT BANGALORE (CCH 29)
O.S. No. 25174/2023
BETWEEN :
M/S ICICI BANK LIMITED
Mittal Tower, M. G. Road, Bangalore- 560001.
Represented by its officer of Power of Attorney Holder Ms. Mansi Singh, Aged about 24 years, D/o Mr. Anil Kumar Singh ...PLAINTIFF
AND :
1. Mrs. Radha
D/o Muddalappa
Aged Major,
No. 21/3, 14th B Cross, Agrahara Dasarahalli
Next to CS India, North Bangalore, Bangalore-560079. ...DEFENDANT
Summons to Defendant
Whereas the above named Plaintiff has filed a Civil Suit for Recovery of a sum of Rs. 15,54,931.28/- (Rupees Fifteen Lakhs Fifty Four Thousand Nine Hundred Thirty One and paisa Twenty Eight Only) apart from future interest of 24% p.a. in O.S. No. 25174/2023 and same is pending adjudication in CCH-29, Before Addl. City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru.
You are hereby summoned to appear before the Hon'ble Court on the 08th day of December, 2023 at 11:00 A.M. to answer to the same, if failed the suit will be decided in your absence Ex-parte.
Given under my hand and seal of the Court this the 27th day of October, 2023.
By the order of Court, Deputy Registrar, City Civil Court, Mayohall, Bengaluru- 560 001
FX & CO., ADVOCATES, New No. 9, Old No. 11/1 Gover Road, Cox Town, Bengaluru- 560 005.

Published by Nirmala Lakshman at No 19&21, Bhagwan Mahaveer Road, Bengaluru-560001 and Printed by C. Sridhar at Plot No. 13-D, Bommasandra-Jigani Link Road, KIADB Industrial Area, Bommasandra, Anekal Taluk, Bengaluru-560099 on behalf of THG PUBLISHING PVT LTD., Chennai-600002. Editor: Suresh Nambath (Responsible for selection of news under the PRB Act).
RNI No. KARENG/1970/49945 • ISSN 0971 - 751X

LOKNITI CSDS SURVEY

Congress trumps CM, the BJP'S lynchpin is the PM in Chhattisgarh

With Chhattisgarh ready to go to polls in two phases, the BJP's functionaries have focused on a strong negative campaign against the ruling Congress. The latter seeks to rely on Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel's popularity

Sanjay Kumar
Aditi Singh
Kaushiki Singh
Avika Singh

The State of Chhattisgarh has 90 assembly constituencies which go for polling in two phases. The first phase polls for 20 seats is scheduled on November 7, and the second phase polls for the remaining 70 seats are on November 17.

This study conducted by Lokniti, CSDS monitored the social media handles of various political actors, right from the top leaders to party functionaries in the State of Chhattisgarh. These posts were made in multiple formats, among which memes, dramatised videos, testimonials and bite-sized clips of public speeches and interviews were the most popular. The nature of social media posts made by the parties were labelled as positive, negative and neutral. There were some posts in the sample that were neither completely negative nor positive, these posts are labelled as mixed (Table 1).

The nature of the posts

A sample was drawn from across the rank and file of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) and the Indian National Congress. In this month-long study, more than 1,600 posts were recorded from social media platforms X and Facebook respectively.

There were a substantial number of neutral posts made by the Congress (38%) and the BJP (48%). Such posts encompass schedules for rallies and official visits, posts observing special days or birthdays and the list of the candidates fielded by both parties. For the purposes of our study, we have focused on the positive and the negative posts made by the parties. The nature of the posts were further deconstructed based on the subjects that were featured in them.

It was discovered that negative posts made by the Congress were mostly against the Prime Minister and central schemes. Allegations of corruption featured in about 20% of all the negative posts made by the Congress. Multiple posts featured the "Modi-Adani" syndicate, irregularities in the Nagrik Apoorti Nigam scheme, and the misuse of the Enforcement Directorate against Opposition leaders. The Congress invoked the issue of the Nagarnar steel plant privatization, GST on Gangajal and caste census to stay relevant in the online battlefront (Table 2).

The positive posts made by the Congress about Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel, and his governance featured in 21% of all positive tweets made by the party. The many schemes of the Congress-led Chhattisgarh government were highlighted by almost 17% of posts (Table 3).

The negative posts made by the BJP leaders in Chhattisgarh are mostly directed towards the incumbent Chief Minister. These posts criticised the governance and the law and order situation in the State. The party made several corruption allegations against the Congress. The most frequently mentioned subjects in these posts were the liquor scam worth 2,100 crore, irregularities in the Baghel-led Godhan Nyay Yojana, the Chhattisgarh Public Service Commission (CGPSC) recruitment scam, coal scam and *Chawal Ghotala* (rice scam). The party also alleged that the Congress was complicit in the murder of BJP worker, Birju Taram (Table 4). The posts made about religion included content regarding the 'anti-Hindu' stance of the Congress, sanatan dharma, Ram Mandir and video excerpts of speeches by Himanta Biswa Sarma and Amit Shah made in the State rallies.

The positive posts made by the BJP regarding the Prime Minister were generally about Central government schemes. The other achievements of the government were highlighted in several posts. For instance there were multiple posts about the positive IMF projections for the Indian economy and Minimum Support Price guarantee on several minor forest produce (Table 5).

Social media strategy

The negative posts made by the BJP appear more coordinated and strategic whereas the Congress seems to be mostly reverting to allegations. It also appears that the party generates and disseminates new hashtags routinely. The party floated different hashtags like #CandyCrushCM, and #CGPSCScam. In its signature style, the party popularised slogans like "*Au Na Sahibo Badal Ke Rahibo*" and "*Thaghesh Sarkar*". The Congress also invented slogans like "*Bhanja Bhanji Party*" and "*E Dari Bhajpa la fir khadedbo*" but overall, the efforts made by the Congress appear lukewarm and less synchronised.

However, the Congress appears more connected and certain while the BJP remains faceless in Chhattisgarh. The posts made by the BJP were mainly about the PM and the Central government. It is worth noting that BJP leader, Raman Singh has been the longest-serving Chief Minister of the State. Despite that, the rallies and the online discourse seem to revolve around either the PM or firebrand party leaders like Amit Shah and Himanta Biswa Sarma. The online presence of the Congress, on the other hand, appears to be a unanimous effort to amplify the achievements of the Bhupesh Baghel Government.

The BJP leaders appear to be more consistent online than the Congress. About 33% of all posts made by the BJP were posted by the official Twitter handle, @BJP4CGSTATE. There were multiple general updates (48%) made by the party, ensuring enhanced visibility online. The sample from the Congress does not appear as consistent as the BJP. The posts by the official social media handle, @INCChhattisgarh, accounts for just 17% of the total posts made.

The drawbacks

There has only been token-representation of women and tribals in the posts of both parties. The only mention of women or gender were found in posts discussing the law-and-order situation. There were also a few negative posts about the LGBTQ community. Although the Adivasis featured in multiple posts, the context was limited to either the promise of welfare or about reservation.

Most social media posts were designed to cater to the youth. A large chunk of these posts were edited clips of popular movie scenes like *Jawan*, animated videos, parodies and memes. A website called Bhupaykaro.com featuring all the allegations levelled against the Congress was created and the QR codes to the website were widely shared.

"*Hume Babur, Aurangzeb aur Akbar ki zarurat nahi*" (We do not need Babur, Aurangzeb and Akbar), "*Ye secularism ki bhasha hume mat sikhao*" (do not teach us the language of secularism) were the highlights of the speech made by BJP leader Himanta Biswa Sarma in Kawardha. Video excerpts of similar speeches were posted online. The popular themes of most of the public speeches made by the senior BJP leaders seems to be the apparent apathy towards the Hindus in the State featuring in about 4% of all their negative posts. In parallel, Congress leaders conjured up the 18% GST on Gangajal debate and made posts alleging that the BJP leaders were "fake-sanatanis".

The national parties are gearing up for the general elections of 2024 and their performance in the assembly elections would serve as a crucial litmus test. This study attempts to provide a microscopic vantage of the trends and patterns manifested in the usage of social media for online campaigning by the leading political parties.

Sanjay Kumar is a Professor at CSDS, Aditi Singh teaches at Jindal University, Kaushiki Singh and Avika Singh are short-term researchers with Lokniti-/CSDS

The online battlefield in Chhattisgarh

Fierce fight: Congress supporters listen to party leader Rahul Gandhi during an election rally ahead of the Chhattisgarh Assembly Elections, in Jagdalpur on November 4. ANI

Table 1: The proportion of positive, negative, and neutral posts made by the Congress and BJP

Nature of the posts	Congress (Total posts recorded - 552)	BJP (Total posts recorded - 1,138)
Positive	21%	8%
Negative	36%	42%
Neutral	38%	48%
Mixed	5%	2%

Table 2: The negative posts made by Congress

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
About the PM and governance	20%
About corruption	20%
About schemes and policies	6%
About religion	4%
Against party members	40%
About caste	3%
About false allegations	3%
About law and order	2%
About international affairs	1%
Others	1%

Table 3: The positive posts made by Congress

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
About the CM and governance	21%
About the party members	39%
About schemes	17%
About caste	7%
About the manifesto	6%
About personal life	4%
About Rahul Gandhi	3%
About international affairs	2%
About law and order	1%

Table 4: The negative posts made by the BJP

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
Against the CM and governance	18%
Alleging corruption	33%
About the party members	25%
About law and order	8%
About gender	1%
About Rahul Gandhi	2%
About religion	4%
About caste	2%
About false allegations	2%
About manifesto	2%
Others	1%

Table 5: The positive posts made by the BJP

Subject of the post	Proportion (In %)
About the PM and governance	23%
About the party members	44%
About schemes	21%
About law and order	3%
About caste	7%
About religion	2%

In this month-long study, more than 1,600 posts were recorded from the social media platforms of X, formerly Twitter, and Facebook

KNOW YOUR ENGLISH

Will you participate in the pageant?

The Dean informed me that there would be fewer courses on offer next semester

S. Upendran

How is the word 'pageant' pronounced? (M. Raghuram, Erode)

'Pageant' consists of two syllables; the first rhymes with 'badge' and 'madge', and the vowel in the second syllable sounds like the 'a' in 'china'. The word is pronounced 'PAJ-ent' with the stress on the first syllable. In the U.S., the word is mostly used refer to a beauty contest.

Millions of people tuned in to watch the Miss World beauty pageant.

A colourful ceremony, which usually takes place outdoors, can also be called a 'pageant'. In this event, people dress up in traditional costumes in order to enact a historical event.

Everyone in class was keen on taking part in the school pageant.

Is it okay to say, 'Less students have enrolled this year'? (Amitabh Sarkar, Guwahati)

While careful users of the language might disapprove of such a sentence, 'less students' is frequently heard in everyday conversation among native and non-native speakers of English. According to the rules of grammar, the word 'less' should be followed by an uncountable noun, and not by a countable noun like 'students'. For example, one can talk about 'less sugar', 'less pollution', and 'less stress'. When the noun in question is 'countable', rules of grammar dictate that the word that precedes it should be 'fewer', and not 'less'. We talk about 'fewer students', 'fewer chairs', 'fewer clouds', etc. As for the sentence that you have given, grammarians would argue that it should be 'Fewer students have enrolled this year'. This subtle distinction between 'less' and 'few', however, is gradually disappearing; both among native and non-native speakers of English.

Fewer children participated in the pageant this year.

Is it okay to say 'Personnel Department'? (P. Jaya, Vizag)

Before answering the question, let us first deal with the pronunciation of the word. The first two syllables are pronounced like the word 'person', and the final vowel sounds like the 'e' in 'pet', 'set' and 'bet'. One way of pronouncing the word is 'per-se-NEL' with the stress on the third syllable. In the case of 'personal', the stress is on the first syllable. Both 'personal' and 'personnel' come from the Latin 'personalis' meaning related to a person. In everyday context, 'personnel' is used as a noun to refer to the people who work for an organisation – the employees. People working in the armed forces can also be called 'personnel'.

The morale of our personnel is very low.

Although there are people who continue to use the term 'Personnel Department', it has more or less been replaced by 'Human Resources Department' – usually shortened to HR.

upendrankye@gmail.com

THE DAILY QUIZ

Please send in your answers to dailyquiz@thehindu.co.in

On the 162th birth anniversary of the inventor of basketball, James Naismith, here is a quiz on some of the greats in one of the world's most popular sports

Srinivasan Ramani

QUESTION 1

What unique distinction is shared by these two basketball players, Bill Bradley, a former New York Knicks player and Manu Ginobili, the Argentine great?

QUESTION 2

Former Warriors great Nate Thurmond achieved this feat first as a Chicago Bulls centre in 1974. Since then only three players have matched it — Alvin Robertson (in 1986), Hakeem Olajuwon (in 1990) and David Robinson (in 1994). Name the feat.

QUESTION 3

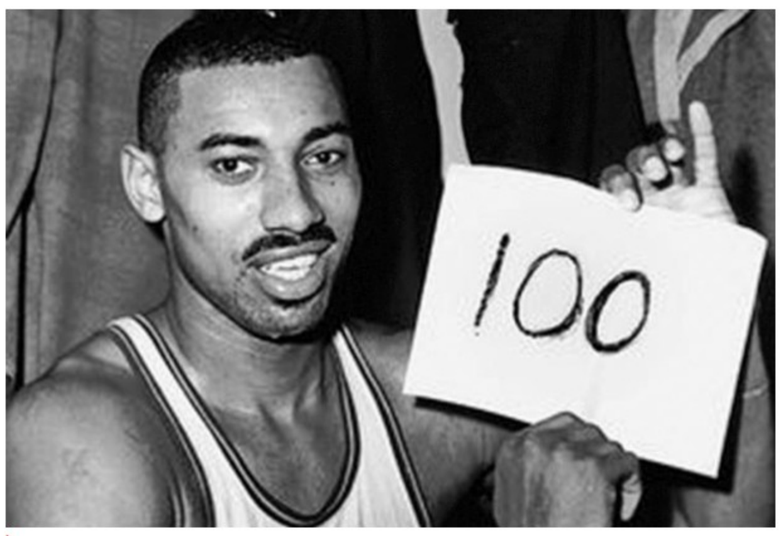
Former Utah Jazz point guard John Stockton leads the NBA historically in two box score stats. He registered 15,806 assists and 3,265 Xs. Name X.

QUESTION 4

Brooklyn Nets forward Mikal Bridges holds the record of having played the most number of games consecutively without a break among active players — 398. Who holds the all time record of 1,192 games?

QUESTION 5

Bill Russell, the Boston Celtics great, holds the record of winning the most NBA championships — 11. Name his teammate who holds the next best record of 10. Also which player has the highest number for anyone who has not represented the Celtics?



Visual question:
Which team did Wilt Chamberlain represent in March 1962 when he scored 100 points, the highest ever by a player in a NBA game. Who was the opponent?

Questions and Answers to the November 3 edition of the daily quiz:

1. David Attenborough received the "Best narration/voice over" award in the 67th National Film Awards for this documentary. **Ans: Wild Karnataka**
2. To protect this species from culling, Attenborough teamed up with musicians to create a new song for awareness. **Ans: Badgers**
3. This series was created by Attenborough to popularise this cue sport. **Ans: Pot Black; Snooker**
4. *Coelacanth* featured the work of this famous biologist. **Ans: Julius Huxley**
5. In 1986, Attenborough was featured with this Indian politician in the TV programme, *World Safari*. **Ans: Rajiv Gandhi**

Visual: Name this carnivorous pitcher plant. **Ans: Nepenthes attenboroughii**

Early Birds: K.N. Viswanathan| Sunil Kannada| Rajnandini| M. Suresh Kumar

Word of the day

Melange:
a motley assortment of things

Synonyms: ragbag, hotchpotch, farrago, mishmash

Usage: *The dish contained a melange of vegetables and herbs.*

Pronunciation: bit.ly/melangepro

International Phonetic Alphabet: /məˈlanʒ/, /məˈlɑ̃ʒ/, /meɪˈlanʒ/, /meɪˈlɑ̃ʒ/

For feedback and suggestions for Text & Context, please write to **letters@thehindu.co.in** with the subject 'Text & Context'

75 Years of Prestige

AWARDED Superbrands INDIA Consumer Validated 2023

BUY
STAINLESS STEEL SVACHH PRESSURE COOKER 1 Unit
@ 15% DISCOUNT*
+

GET FREE*
FRY PAN 18 cm 1 Unit
WORTH ₹710.00*

Prestige®

Shubh utsav

Celebrating 75 years of Innovation.

16th Sep - 15th Nov, 2023.

BUY
ENDURA 1000 WATT MIXER GRINDER 6 JAR 1 Unit
@ 25% DISCOUNT*
Kneads Atta, Chops Vegetables, Makes Juice, Grinds Chutney, Masalas & Stores.
+

GET FREE*
STAINLESS STEEL SVACHH 3L PRESSURE COOKER 1 Unit
WORTH ₹2 420.00*

BUY
3 UNITS OF STAINLESS STEEL COOKWARE 1 Set*
WORTH ₹3 825.00*
+

GET FREE*
STAINLESS STEEL SVACHH 3L PRESSURE COOKER 1 Unit
WORTH ₹2 420.00*

BUY
INDUCTION COOKTOP PIC 3.1 V3 1 Unit
@ 25% DISCOUNT*
With Automatic Whistle Counter

+

GET FREE*
OMNI TAWA 28 cm 1 Unit
WORTH ₹1400.00*

10 YEAR WARRANTY ON GLASS

BUY
ROYALE PLUS 3B GLASS TOP GAS STOVE 1 Unit
@ 35% DISCOUNT*
+
GET FREE*
STAINLESS STEEL SVACHH 3L PRESSURE COOKER 1 Unit
WORTH ₹2 420.00*

GET FREE*
SVACHH HOB 3B 1 Unit
WORTH ₹15 995.00*
BUY
PROVO CHIMNEY 1 Unit
@ 40% DISCOUNT*
+

INTRODUCING JUDGE® By Prestige®
Quality meets Affordability.

PRESSURE COOKER 3L
1 Unit STARTING FROM
₹899.00*

COOKWARE 1 Unit
STARTING FROM
₹449.00*

GAS STOVE 1 Unit
STARTING FROM
₹1 899.00*

MIXER GRINDER 1 Unit
STARTING FROM
₹1 999.00*

DINNER SET 1 Set
STARTING FROM
₹1 499.00*

The prices stated for Judge by Prestige range of products represent the offer price of the product (Inclusive of taxes).

*Conditions apply. The prices stated above represent the MRP of the product (inclusive of all taxes). Discounts are offered on MRP only. No two offers can be clubbed together. The 3 Units Stainless Steel Cookware consists of Fry Pan - 22 cm, Kadai - 22 cm with Glass lid, Sauce Pan - 16 cm with Glass lid. Offers on select models until stocks last. Offers valid across select stores only. Stainless Steel Svachh Pressure Cooker offer applicable only on SS Deluxe Alpha Svachh series. Offers valid in the state of Tamil Nadu, Karnataka, Goa, Gujarat & Maharashtra. Prestige® Logo is the registered trademark of TTK Prestige Limited in India. Judge® Logo is the registered trademark of Horwood Homewares Ltd. in India. For MRP and other detailed terms and conditions, visit your nearest PrestigeXclusive / Dealer outlet.

Prestige®

CUSTOMER CARE NO* 080-6000 4411 *Reach out to us on our new Customer Care No. effective from September - 2023

Follow 'TTK Prestige' on

PRESTIGE XPERT on WhatsApp 97423 34411

Shop Online on shop.ttkprestige.com

Jo apnon se kare pyaar, woh Prestige se kaise kare inkaar.

Prestige Xclusive

Outer Ring Road: Hennur Coco, Ph: 7204250679; **Tumkur Rd. 8th Mile T.Dasarahalli**, Ph: 9972541116; **Koramangala**, Ph: 9742901122; **Bull Temple Rd, Ph:** 26609012; **Malleswaram, Ph:** 9448282470; **Rt Nagar Main Rd, Ph:** 41698761; **Ganganagar Cbi Rd, Ph:** 43705914; **Wheeler Rd, Ph:** 25803080; **Kattriguppe Circle, Ph:** 40900685; **Vijayanagar, Ph:** 41330034; **Hsr Bda Cmplx, Ph:** 25726991; **Marathahalli, Ph:** 42197088; **Sanjaynagar, Ph:** 41258300; **Banaswadi Ring Rd, Ph:** 41634115; **Jayanagar, Ph:** 9845066549; **J.P.Nagar, Ph:** 41122235; **Rajarajeshwaringr, Ph:** 28603540, 9008418800; **Kengeri Stl Town, Ph:** 28485296; **Rajajinagar, Ph:** 41731224; **B.T.M.Layout, Ph:** 40939168; **Sarjapura Rd, Ph:** 42038646; **Konankunte Cross, Ph:** 26860350; **Nagharabhavi Bda Cmplx**, Ph: 9739004750; **Begur, Ph:** 8073408322; **Vidyaranayapura, Ph:** 9845518824; **Wilson Garden, Ph:** 9480010720; **Brookefield, Ph:** 28541555; **Ramamurthynagar, Ph: 08042049545**; **Kr Puram, Ph:** 8861494277; **Cambridge Layout, Ph:** 42074468; **Kaggadaspura, Ph:** 7306666610; **Kammanahalli, Ph:** 41606044; **Whitefield, Ph:** 40907273; **Chandapura, Ph:** 9036190725; **Hoskote, Ph:** 27932227; **Dommasandra, Ph:** 9611423555; **Hesarghatta Road, Ph:** 28370400; **Uttarahalli, Ph:** 9986879095; **Anjananagr Magadi Rd, Ph:** 23281206; **Kadugodi, Ph:** 8123042234; **Hosur Rd Huskur Gate, Ph:** 9606406009; **Yelahanka Newtown, Ph:** 8668034376; **Jayamahal Ext, Ph:** 41616484; **Mahalakshmi Lyt, Ph:** 23572233; **Jpnagar 7th Phase, Puttenahalli, Ph:** 41465855; **Kumaraswamy Lyt, Ph:** 9739011252; **Chandralyt, Ph:** 9845146418; **Channasandra, Ph:** 9986369569; **Sheshadripuram, Ph:** 8711090976; **Kasturinagar, Ph:** 08049923166; **Tc Palya, Ph:** 9740333334; **Attibele, Ph:** 9341221525; **Jigani, Ph:** 8762069852; **Sarjapura Town, Ph:** 9036373175†; **Hosa Rd Junction, Ph:** 9845597099; **Mathikere**, Ph: 6366636592; **Basaveshwaranagar, Ph:** 9739591008; **Thalagatapura, Vajarahalli, Ph:** 9964116888; **Hegganahalli, Ph:** 28360289; **Gottigere, Ph:** 8431241099; **Amruthahalli, Ph:** 9141169883; **Ullal, Ph:** 9686646565; **Jayanagar 4th Block East Extension, Ph:** 9945446335; **Nelamangala, Ph:** 9632356627; **Kolar, Ph:** 9738882584; **Channapatna, Ph:** 9686661294; **Madhugiri**, Ph: 9611552805; **Gauribidanur, Ph:** 8317399465; **Gubbi: Ph:** 9035195120|8095459040; **Banshankari Stage 2, Bda Complex, Ph:** 49890679, 9740677740; **Vijayabank Colony, Bilekahalli, Ph:** 8970366139; **Whitefield, Ph:** 08040907273; **Malur, Ph:** 9845028859; **Kumbalagodu, Ph:** 9845014860; **Devanahalli, Ph:** 9845737576; **Thanisandra, Ph:** 9686340159; **E.City Phase 1, Ph:** 7557000060; **Hulimavu, Ph:** 8904654433; **Singanayakanahalli, Ph:** 9591059156; **Anekal, Ph:** 8660070202; **Tiptur**, Ph: 9164688773; **Ramnagar**, Ph: 9686661294; **Bhyadarahalli, Ph:** 9845982089; **Hennur Bande, Ph:** 9980097982; **Tc Palya Road**, Ph: 9148775224; **Chikkajaala**, Ph: 9036202892;

Dealer: **Jayanagar:** Sarathy, Ph: 41210047; Vishaals, Ph: 08022447285; Royal Mart, Ph: 8790311104; Anjana Super Stores, Ph: 41301836; Kitchenmart, Ph: 26652885; Aravinda, Ph: 41301989; **Sajjan Rao Circle:** Vardhaman Intl, Ph: 8073383878; **Vv Puram:** Kesariya, Ph: 08041531515/41131535; **Bankcolony**: Vardhaman Ind, Ph: 22428300; **Banashankari:** Varada Glass & Crky, **Ph:** 9980949316; Patel Agn, Ph: 26714285; Patel Kitchen Apl, Ph: 9079061706; Chamundi Ind, Ph: 26712633; **Bilekhalli:** Sree Pooja Ha, Ph: 9036919084; **Begur Rd:** Hari Om Appl, Ph: 9916107669; **Bommanahalli:** Sri Durga Ha, Ph: 9900674018; **Chamarjpet:** Vadirajstores, Ph: 41517646; **Hosa Rd:** Maharaja Kw, Ph: 9036400829; **Isro Layout:** Bhumi Kitchen, Ph: 9916830850; **Jp Nagar:** Santripti, Ph: 9986699193; S.R.Appl, Ph: 8618846934; M.K.Ahmed Sm, Ph: 9900108877; **Kanakapura Rd:** Royal Mart, Ph: 28425777; **Padmanabnagar:** Royalmart, Ph: 9886088993; **Uttarahalli:** Royalmart, Ph: 26394114; Rme Super Market, Ph: 9964228208; **Mysore Road:** The Karnataka Metal Industry, Ph: 9449342727; **Ayyappanagar:** Top Mart Sm, Ph: 7204448111; **Babusapalya**: Karnataka Ha, Ph: 8105754544; **Basaveshwarnagar:** Bigday Hm, Ph: 9972517344; Mahaveer Ha, Ph: 9845288857; Modern Colln, Ph: 8095758444; Adhinath Kitchen Gal, Ph: 8553583206; **Gayathri Ngr:** J.K.Steel, Ph: 9110806115; **Giri Nagar**: Vidya Ent, Ph: 9449988650; **Bagalgunte**: Royal Mart, Ph: 9538000072; **Chandra Layout:** Rajguru Kw, Ph: 8792686851; Pavan Kw, Ph: 8618028319; Milan Ha, Ph: 7411738812; **Ganganagar:** Patel Ind, Ph: 8050899296; Salem Ind, Ph: 9880795414; Bhagavathi Kitchenware, Ph: 8762161579; **Hanumanthanagar:** Home Studio, Ph: 9945933111; Kamal Appliances, Ph: 9008800881; **Hesargatta Main Rd:** Royal Mart, Ph: 28398200; **Horamavu:** Mamtha Ha, Ph: 8880050050; **Hbr Layout:** Bhavani Ha, Ph: 9845916164; **Harlur:** Vinayaka Ha, Ph: 7760531454; **Katriguppe:** Mk Metal Mart, Ph: 9035779199; **Kr Puram:** Srm Elect, Ph: 9845445748; Pooja Ele And Mob, Ph: 9738850503; **Kammanahalli:** Ramdev Steel, Ph: 7259575732; Hm Traders, Ph: 9964797616; **Konenkunte Cross:** Mahalaxmi Elct & Ha, Ph: 8123203588; **Kasavanahalli:** Mathaji Ha, Ph: 8880796036; **Kengeri:** Alankar Elec, Ph: 8762805452; **Koramangala:** Sowbhagya Traders, Ph: 7337733887; **Kmr Swy Layout:** Bhoomi Kitchen, Ph: 9036850850; Patel Ha, Ph: 8951979665; **Laggere:** Top Mart, Ph: 9110246047; **Lnpura:** Arihanth Ent, Ph: 7899633338; **Malleshwaram:** Deviprasad Ha, Ph: 23564536; Bright Novelty, Ph: 23343505; **Mathikere:** M.Bhawarlals Inc, Ph: 41724740; Maharaja Agency, Ph: 41278050; **Kadugodi:** Little Wonder, Ph: 9961224224; **Madiwala:** Surya Ha, Ph: 9449635332; **Malleshpalya:** Bajrang Ha, Ph: 9449526463; New Bheru Ha, Ph: 9448680738; Ramdev Ha, Ph: 9035175860; Sri Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9590575427; Maa Ambe Ha, Ph: 8884198322; Maruthi Ha, Ph: 9952660769; **Magadiroad:** Kesariya, Ph: 6361685271; Royal Mart, Ph: 23584498; **Annaporneshwari Nagar:** Deepak Ha, Ph: 9148912736; **Iti Lyaout:** Radhakrishna Ent, Ph: 9739198531; **M S Palya:** Royal Mart, Ph: 8147014079; **B Narayanpura:** Yellow Mart, Ph: 7676726487; **Rajajinagar:** Mahalakshmi Metal House, Ph: 23355994; Rathna Sales, Ph: 23375566; Dhanalakshmi Kitchen World, Ph: 41285801; Jayalakshmi Kw, Ph: 9844755146; R S Mart, Ph: 6363602929; Pooja Stl Cent, Ph: 23327014; Vardhaman Intl, Ph: 08040974556; **Rajankunte:** Rmr Super Market, Ph: 9108636912; **Rr Nagar:** Milan Ha, Ph: 28605619; Pavan Kg, Ph: 9739207043; **Tavarakere:** Mytri Mart Sm, Ph: 9036466761; **T C Palya:** Rhk Super Mkt, Ph: 9731668995; Karnataka Ha, Ph: 6363064024; **Tipsandra:** Pawar Ha, Ph: 9980517021; Milan Ha, Ph: 9986196375; Ramdev Ha, Ph: 7406901545; **Ulsoor:** Aishwaryapranam Hn, Ph: 9902788429; Pranam Steel Center, Ph: 9448053781; **Udaynagar:** Mother India, Ph: 9036189765; **Madanayakana Halli:** Vardhaman Intl, Ph: 8553170346; **Venkatapura:** Pooja Kg, Ph: 9900426176; **Vijayanagar:** Mahendras, Ph: 9986102112; Vijaylaxmi Kw, Ph: 9845022284; Maruthi Ha, Ph: 8904689155; **Vidyarnapura:** Praksh Kw, Ph: 8050620877; Mahalakshmi Steel House, Ph: 9663375159; All Seasons Hm, Ph: 9946728736; **Whitefield:** Little Wonder-, Ph: 7975372794; Rolla Hm, Ph: 9148003448; Loyalcity, Ph: 8884046890; Royal Mart, Ph: 7079734574; **Yelahanka:** Royalmart, Ph: 41705760; Mutha Electricals, Ph: 22971920; Sai Kitchen World, Ph: 9632811797; Sai Ram Ka, Ph: 6362506002; **Btm Layout**: Patel Agencies, Ph: 9482853401; **Indranagar**: Kitchen Expert, Ph: 7350436750; **Lalbagh Road:** Mohankheda Impex, Ph: 9986198760; **Nagrathpet**: Mahipal Entpr, Ph: 41248070; Mahadev Dist, Ph: 41514943; Shubham Home Appliances, Ph: 9448674150; Bhagawathi Ha, Ph: 9663850009; Marudhar Ha, Ph: 9945444454; Ramdev Metal, Ph: 8618014985; Puckraj & Sons, Ph: 9448771841; B M Agencies, Ph: 9886617028; Bhagavti Spares, Ph: 9513992993; Pramod Steel, Ph: 9844074193; Jainam Marketing, Ph: 9036783828; Usha Home Ind, Ph: 41519106; Karnataka Metal Ind, Ph: 9844515458; Renuka Mktg, Ph: 41224591; Pooja Dist, Ph: 41234022; **Bvk Iyengar Rd**: Jain Wire Emporium, Ph: 08041249274; Crockery World, Ph: 9845025420; Manglik Mktng, Ph: 9448970501; Shah Gulab Chand & Sons, Ph: 08041222095; **Chickpet:** Mahesh Dist, Ph: 9916086085; **Varhtur:** Kitchen Kettles, Ph: 9148994805; **Haraluru:** Maharaja Kitchen World, Ph: 9036400829; **Hsr Layout:** Pawan Kitchen World, Ph: 8618220896; Nandi Kitchen Wd, Ph: 9686549035; **Muddanapalya:** Sri Balaji Innov, Ph: 9611176529; **Electronics City:** Dream Mart Hm, Ph: 9902734586; Village Hm, Ph: 9663966121; **Hegde Nagar**: All Market, Ph: 8892959570; **Tumkur:** N.R Metal Agency, Ph: 08162275003; Kavitha Kitchen Needs, Ph: 9538537166; Surya Metal Store, Ph: 9731351050;Tumkur Trade Centre, Ph: 9901432287; Darshan Ha, Ph: 9632132567; Sudha Ha, Ph: 9964011253; Niketana Trading Co, Ph: 9538826927; **Gubbi:** Keerthi Gas Stove, Ph: 9686004169; **Tiptur**: Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166; Sri Rama-Ent, Ph: 9880362018; Kumar And Kumar, Ph: 9141609900; **Turuvekere:** Sri Sai Electronics, Ph: 8861432166; **Pavgada:** Shivanagere Ha, Ph: 9880768236; Meenakshi Appl, Ph: 9880360326; **Sira:** Swamy Ent, Ph: 9741561491; Lakshmi Steel, Ph: 9060434807; Mallikarjuna Home Appliances, Ph: 8123206930; **Madhugiri:** Vinayaka Store, Ph: 9900219291; **Kunigal:** Karnataka Metal Stores, Ph: 9448550390; New Karnataka Steel Centre, Ph: 08132221548; Karnataka Home Appliances, Ph: 8892197645; **Chiknayakakanahli:** Mustafa Elec, Ph: 8861729784; **Huliyar:** Abhi Electronics, Ph: 944866833; **Kgf:** Prakash Ha, Ph: 9845113454; **Bangarpet**: Kumar Stores, Ph: 9845935240; **Gauribidanur:** Sri Raju Hn, Ph: 9448249527; Dhighvijaya Elec, Ph: 7204757456; **Kanakapura:** Sri Kabbalamma Ha, Ph: 9880835508; **Kolar:** Rakesh Ele, Ph: 9880634555; Naveenprakash Ha, Ph: 9844997787; **Malur:** Srm Elec, Ph: 9845445748; Reddy Ele, Ph: 9844435121; **Vijayapura**: Rmcity, Ph: 9845164990; Reddy Ele, Ph: 9900336061; **Devanahalli:** New Sowmya Ele, Ph: 9141335210; Reddy Elec, Ph: 9731001577; **Chintamani:** Great India Ele, Ph: 9742963551; Lavanya Stores, Ph: 9242498294.

Also Available At: Pai International, Girias, LuLu

The prices stated for Judge by Prestige range of products represent the offer price of the product (Inclusive of taxes).

‘Won’t saffronise or Congressise our State Education Policy’

Minister for School Education and Literacy says the policy will not favour or be against any political party, and will be framed after consultation with all, including those who disagree with it

INTERVIEW

Madhu Bangarappa

Madhu Bangarappa

Sathish G.T.
SHIVAMOGGA

The State government has constituted a committee to frame the Karnataka State Education Policy, which will be a model for the entire country, said Madhu Bangarappa, Minister for School Education and Literacy.

In an interview with *The Hindu* in Shivamogga, the Minister said the policy would not favour any particular political party or be against any party. “Our motto is to focus on what is essential for providing quality education for our children. The committee has been told to interact with all stakeholders, including those who oppose the SEP,” he said.

Excerpts:

Why did the State go for SEP, in place of the new National Education Policy-2020, proposed by the Union government?

■ There are many reasons. For one, the Centre tried to infuse saffronisation through the policy. Such a policy and syllabus end up communalising children. They will be encouraged to hate somebody. How can we accept that?

Moreover, the BJP government introduced it without holding a discussion with anybody. They were in a hurry to implement it because of the pressure from the party high command. It showed they were more committed to the party high command than quality education for children.

On the other hand, we are not bringing any agenda of Congress in the name of policy. It will remain unbiased.

Besides that, the simple reason for SEP is that we want the schools to be under the State government’s control. Here, for example, we teach children about our great poet Kuvempu, our rulers Krishnadevaraya, Rani Chennamma, warrior Onake Obavva, social reformers Basavanna, Narayana Guru or the rivers like the Cauvery of our land. These are all part of our culture.

In the name of NEP, our children will be forced to study something not connected to our culture. Hence, we want a policy that talks about our culture and nativity.

Do you anticipate the Union government’s non-cooperation to implement the SEP by stopping funds for Centrally sponsored schemes?

■ I don’t think they will be so cruel... Anyhow, we are providing food for children in Classes 9 and 10. They (the Centre) are providing for children only up to Class 8. We are providing uniform, eggs, and books. We will manage. Already, they are not giving us our due share of taxes. Let them clear our dues first.

The committee headed by Dr. Sukhdeo Thorat has only six months time. When you are planning to implement SEP?

■ Chief Minister Siddaramaiah has said it will be implemented by next academic year.

I feel the time we have is short. The committee has six months. It has begun the work just two days ago. By April 2024, they may submit the report. Later, we may have to go for textbook revision. It may require more time. Then, we will convey this to the CM.

However, the transition from the NEP to the SEP will be smooth. NEP was implemented only in higher education. The changes will be made so that the students do not feel disturbed.

Will the SEP be applied to ICSE, CBSE, and Central Syllabus schools as well?

■ The SEP committee will deliberate on this issue. At the end of the day, the idea is to give good education. There are a lot of similarities in the syllabus. SEP aims to do away with any agenda that infuses hatred among children through their textbooks.... We will not saffronise or Congressise our SEP.

Are there any specific instructions to the SEP committee on teaching of Kannada and the medium of instruction?

■ Kannada will have primacy. Students will have the option to learn other languages. English will be taught too.

With regard to the medium of instruction, the students will have a choice of both Kannada and English medium. Many parents are opting for English medium in our Karnataka Public Schools (KPS). Even those who initially chose Kannada as their medium of instruction are gradually transitioning to English. We respect their choice.

Recently, NCERT panel recommended replacing India with Bharat in textbooks. How do you see it?

■ All these years, we accepted both Bharat and India. When we introduce ourselves in English, we call ourselves Indian, and in Kannada, we identify ourselves as Bharatiya. But the Centre is trying to divide between Bharat and India.

Moreover, they are bringing up the issue of India and Bharat at the very end of their term. It shows they have no other issue to go before the public. They want to whip up emotions for political gains. Our policy will be clear on this. We will retain both names.

From Page One

‘Submit reports on drought by Nov. 15’

As against a loss of ₹33,000 crore that the State had suffered due to drought, the government had sought Central assistance of ₹17,900 crore as per NDRF norms.

He regretted that Central Ministers had not given an audience to Karnataka’s Ministers. Revenue Minister Krishna Byre Gowda, Rural Development and Panchayat Raj Minister Priyank Kharge, and Agriculture Minister N. Cheluvarayaswamy, who had been to Delhi, were not given an appointment by Union Ministers, Mr. Siddaramaiah claimed.

He said he had written to Prime Minister Narendra Modi and Home Minister Amit Shah again on the need for release of Central funds for drought relief, and accused the Centre of meting out stepmotherly treatment to Karnataka.

Reacting to a question, Mr. Siddaramaiah said BJP leaders, who were touring the State to study the drought situation, should instead proceed to Delhi and bring pressure on the Centre to release funds. When his attention was drawn to Mr. Modi announcing guarantee schemes in the poll-bound States after criticising the same in Karnataka, Mr. Siddaramaiah said the BJP’s criticism that the government would go bankrupt by implementing such schemes were politically motivated.

With regard to the public debate on change of leadership in the State, Mr. Siddaramaiah said a breakfast meeting was held in Bengaluru on Saturday, where Ministers had been told to desist from issuing statements on the matter and instead speak about the achievements made by their departments.

While holding the BJP responsible for the speculation on the issue of leadership change, Mr. Siddaramaiah said that party as well as the JD(S) had become frustrated as their plans to align with each other and form a government had been foiled.

CM urges JD(S) to convince Union govt. to provide drought relief

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Siddaramaiah

Welcoming the “Raitha Santwana Yatre” by the Janata Dal (Secular) to study drought conditions in the State, Chief Minister Siddaramaiah on Sunday said that the State will benefit if JD(S) shares the report with the Centre, and helps take an all-party delegation to Prime Minister Narendra Modi..

“I welcome the decision of the JD(S) to go on a drought study tour. This is the responsibility of a responsible Opposition party. We will consider the drought report seriously. However, if the report is shared with the Centre, the State will also benefit,” the Chief Minister said in a post on social media.

He said, “As the head of the regional party, I am sure he is aware that Karnataka is being slighted by the Centre constantly with respect to drought relief. In a new development, Mr. Kumaraswamy is in an alliance with the BJP that is in power at the Centre. Mr. Modi, who has kept State BJP leaders away, is close to the family members of former Prime Minister H.D. Deve Gowda.” Further, Mr. Siddaramaiah said, “Kannadigas will be grateful if they use their cordial relationship (with Mr. Modi) and address the injustice being meted out to the State by the Centre.”

The Chief Minister pointed out that of the 236 taluks in the State, 216 taluks have been declared as drought-affected and crop losses have been estimated to be around ₹33,710 crore.

Actors Aishwarya Rai, Anushka Shetty to grace Bengaluru Kambala

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

Actors Aishwarya Rai and Anushka Shetty will be among the celebrities making their presence felt at the first-ever Kambala to be held on Palace Grounds in Bengaluru.

The event organisers are expecting a crowd between three and five lakhs over two days. The government has announced a grant of ₹1 crore for the event. The participating buffaloes will be accorded a warm send-off from Uppinangady on November 23, said Bengaluru Kambala Samithi president Ashok Rai on Sunday. Events are being planned to welcome the buffaloes at Hassan and Nelamangala en route to Bengaluru, he added.

Organising president Umesh Shetty said that actors from the coastal area, including Aishwarya Rai and Anushka Shetty, will be arriving to watch Bengaluru Kambala.

As part of the preparation, representatives from over 50 communities from coastal districts met here on Sunday to chalk out the modalities. Honorary president of the committee K. Prakash Shetty said that Bengaluru Kambala will be a historic event providing a large platform to bring together all communities of the coastal districts. A theme song “Bengaluru Kambala - Namma Kambala”, written by V. Manohar and music by Gurukiran, was released on Sunday.

CORRIDORS OF POWER

How to inaugurate a swimming pool

Old timers often recall an incident in 1980s when the then Chief Minister Gundu Rao inaugurated a swimming pool in his own unique way -- he turned up in swimming trunks and jumped into the pool to declare it open in Sadashiva Nagar in Bengaluru. Now, after a meeting at the office of Dakshina Kannada Commissioner on November 1, reporters asked former Chief Minister’s son Dinesh Gundu Rao (*in picture*), who is also the district in-charge Minister, whether he would like to emulate his father and swim during the inauguration of the new swimming pool in Yemmekere in Mangaluru on November 24. Mr. Rao, who did not see such a question coming, tried to brush it aside and said, “I am a swimmer, no doubt, and I will certainly swim in the new pool at a later date, but not on the inaugural day.” When a reporter persisted with the same question, Mr. Rao just smiled and left the DC office.

Mute on party politics

After a dinner meeting with Chief Minister Siddaramaiah and a few other Cabinet colleagues in Bengaluru, Home Minister G. Parameshwara seems to be avoiding all questions related to the change of leadership in Karnataka. Soon after arrival at Mangaluru International Airport for inauguration of new buildings of Mangaluru City Police last week, Mr. Parameshwara did not speak to reporters waiting outside the airport. But when they turned up at the new Mangaluru Rural Police Station, there was no escape. Mr. Parameshwara greeted the reporters with an “Encha Ullar” (how are you?) in Tulu, answered all questions related to police and other wings of Home Department, but clammed up on political developments in the Congress. When asked about factionalism in the Congress, the Home Minister made in clear, “Today I will answer only questions related to my department and nothing else.” The high command’s recent warning seems to be working.

Sagar MLA’s proposal

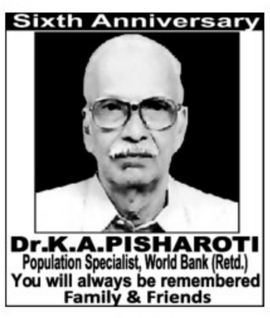
A senior legislator disappointed over being denied Cabinet berth in the Siddaramaiah-led government, Sagar MLA Belur Gopalakrishna recently mooted a proposal on rotation of Ministers for every 20 months to provide an opportunity to all senior and junior legislators of the Congress during its five-year term.

Mr. Gopalakrishna, who belongs to the Idiga community and joined the Congress on the eve of 2023 Assembly elections, has been sulking since Madhu Bangarappa, junior to him in politics, was made Minister. Now, the MLA has demanded ticket to contest Lok Sabha elections scheduled to be held next year from Shivamogga constituency. The MLA seems keen to settle political scores with Mr. Madhu, who is planning to seek ticket for his sister and actor Shivarajkumar’s wife Geeta Shivarajkumar from Shivamogga segment. Ms. Geeta contested the 2014 Lok Sabha elections against BJP veteran B.S. Yediyurappa and lost. Will the party field her again is the moot question.

Raghava M.
Nagesh Prabhu

OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES



OBITUARY & REMEMBRANCE

DEATH ANNIVERSARIES

Tribute to
Legend of Textile
Janab Haji S Madhar Sha
Heavenly Abode : 6-11-2009
We pledge to maintain the rapport and standard of service set by our great father to our loyal customers who are with us for so many decades.
Family Members, Management & Staff
MADHAR SHA DEATH ANNIVERSARY 14
MADHARSHA GROUP
A Great Name in Textiles
In Consumer Service Since 1938
Madhar Sha Group

Karbala Rivayat singers from Agasanur perform outside the village for the first time

The performance is during the first 10 days of the Muharram month. The singers are from various communities in the village of Agasanur which has a unique syncretic tradition

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Last week, for the very first time, Karbala Rivayat singers of Agasanur village of Ballari district performed outside their village, winning over the hearts of the audience gathered at the Bangalore International Centre (BIC).

Karbala Rivayat (that describes the battle of Karbala in the form of a ballad) is performed during the first 10 days of the Muharram month. The singers are always passionate performers from various communities in the village of Agasanur.

At BIC, singers Dose Iranna and Usman Ali (both in their 70s), 65-year-old Raghava Reddy and the youngest member Sadaq Ali performed in their rich voices accompanied by anklets with humongous bells, to not miss a single beat.

While expressing their excitement to share their rich culture with the people of Bengaluru, the Rivayat singers also note that this has been a family tradition, and their families will carry it forward.

Beyond religion

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Mr. Usman Ali says, "Just like me, Dose Iranna and many other Rivayat singers have been practicing this tradition for 40-50 years. Our fathers and grandfathers, no matter which caste or religion they belonged to, sang Karbala Rivayats.... We have continued doing it and so will our families for years to come."

"Religion or caste has never been a matter of discussion in our village. All of us live in harmony and respect each other's religious practices."

Adding to it, Mr. Dose Iranna, one of the seniormost Rivayat singers of Agasanuru, says Muharram is observed by every single person of the village.

"I started learning the Karbala Rivayats when I was 10 years old. Even back then, there was never just one community singing the Rivayats. Since my childhood I have seen both Muslims and Hindus sing the Rivayats. When they heard me sing for the first time, they never asked my name or my religion, all they said was you have a great voice and the right note, so come sing with us," he told *The Hindu*.

"There has never been a difference between a Muslim and a Hindu in Agasanur when it comes to performing during festivities of any kind. Be it a festival, a function, or any event, we keep aside our castes and religion. It is the same during the month of Muharram. All of us get to work like it is our duty," he said.

Carrying forward a tradition

Raghava Reddy who has also been singing Rivayats for more than four decades said it is the singers' responsibility to carry forward the tradition.

"For me it all started in the 1980s, and now, I have been singing Karbala Rivayats for 40 years. There has never been an objection from my family or our community," he said. "During Muharram every member or every family in the village has a job to do. Nobody needs to be informed of their tasks. Everyone just comes together to complete their responsibilities. Rivayat singers continue singing, flag holders continue participating and so on."

Preserving heritage

Sporting *Vibhuthi Namas* on his forehead and a *Shalya* (shoulder towel) on his shoulder, young Rivayat singer, Sadaq Ali, is a living example of the cultural harmony and syncretic traditions in the village of Agasanur.

"My name is Sadaq Ali, but I am a Hindu by birth. This is what makes our village unique. I follow the paths of Hassan and Hussien, but I am also a strong believer in Lord Shiva. I sing Bhajans at the Huligemma Devi temple and also sing Karbala Rivayats during Muharram. For me both religions are the same, and so are the gods," he said. "Religious or caste differentiations were never taught to any of us since childhood. Despite belonging to a Hindu family, my parents and family have never questioned why I sing Rivayats or stopped me from singing. They have always been supportive. "

In Agasanur village the Rivayat singers perform Kannada Rivayats in front of *alams* (a metal stand/replica) to honour the martyrdom of Hussein (the grandson of Prophet Muhammed), his family, and followers in a 7th-century battle in Karbala, situated in present-day Iraq.

Embracing distinctness

Ali notes that during the month of Muharram, the entire village goes into a mourning-like state, especially the first 10 days. Nobody in the village wears slippers, women do not apply bindis or wear flowers on their hair.

"There have been instances when major Hindu festivals like Ganesha Chaturthi or Dasara fell on the same dates as Muharram. In situations like these, the entire village unanimously observes Muharram and does not celebrate any other festivity," added Ali.

The observance of Muharram in villages across Karnataka diverges from the prescribed rituals of Shia believers as the communities in the villages have crafted their own unique customs.

Festivities include the procession of *alams* and each village embrace distinct practices.

In Agasanur, where Muharram rituals are highly sophisticated, various Hindu caste groups have specific roles to fulfil. Drummers typically come from the Scheduled Caste community, while the young men accompanying the *alam*-bearers are often from the Valmiki caste, classified as a Scheduled Tribe.

The procession winds its way through the village, making stops at the residences of prominent individuals, who tend to belong to higher castes in the society.

Karbala Rivayat singers from Agasanur at the Bangalore International Centre.

Both Hindus and Muslims observe Muharram in Hubballi.

File photo of young boys with their bodies painted to resemble tiger, as part of a ritual observed during Muharram in Hubballi.

File photo of Muharram where members of the Muslim community carrying â panjasâ in procession in Hubballi.

Horticulture therapy to help build skills for those with special needs

Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre is a project designed to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities

Yemen S.
BENGALURU

Gardening, it is widely believed, has therapeutic value. The Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre launched in Bengaluru last week works on this principle and seeks to help people with physical and metal health issues with what is called "horticulture therapy."

On the inaugural day on November 3, men and women with autism, down syndrome and other mental and physical disabilities learnt the basics of gardening such as sowing seeds and planting saplings at the Government Institutions Complex, Department of Women and Child Development. The centre has been started by the Association of People with Disability (APD), in association with the Department of Women and Child Development, Government of Karnataka, and Robert Bosch.

Beneficiaries at the Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre.

Sustainable livelihood

The Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre is a project designed to provide sustainable livelihood opportunities for residents of the Correctional Institutions Complex (CIC), a facility that houses individuals with diverse needs, including intellectual disabilities, women and children who have been rescued from abuse, abandonment, forced labour, and other such circumstances. The project's scope expanded to include eco-therapy for intellectually challenged men and women and environmental education for children at the boys' and girls' homes within the complex. The programme also aims to address environmental concerns by introducing a wet waste management solution that utilises kitchen waste generated within the complex.

APD, in April 2023, initiated a livelihood programme under which the Inclusive Sustainable Horticulture Centre has been opened, the programme has already shown significant promise in providing holistic support and sustainable opportunities to those in need, says the organisation. So far 115 beneficiaries have been selected out of 425 residents among the seven homes in the complex. The beneficiaries will be trained in gardening and plant nursery activities to develop skills and provide eco-therapy. The activities will also help the beneficiaries build eye-hand coordination, improve cardiac health, build problem solving skills, improve sense of wellbeing and a lot more.

Comprehensive approach

Speaking to *The Hindu*, Dr. Senthil N.S. Kumar, Chief operations officer and executive officer, APD, said the programme will not just help them develop skills but also help beneficiaries look for jobs to make a livelihood.

"APD caters services to people with all kinds of disabilities under the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (RPWD) Act, 2016. We address issues faced by those with disabilities comprehensively. Which is why we feel eco-therapy could help those with physical or mental disabilities to lead a better life. Bengaluru being a garden city, we felt there are a lot of job opportunities for those with gardening skills."

"The beneficiaries with physical disabilities or mild mental disabilities will be trained in this horticulture program for six months, and we will place them as gardeners and garden supervisors at various organisations. We hope that through this programme, someone who has been considered a burden by their family will be able to be productive, be economically independent, take care of themselves, and support their families," said Kumar.

"Assistive and adaptive devices will be used in the program, which means gardening tools and equipment will be specially made and modified to make sure beneficiaries do not self-harm themselves. We also want to make sure that the program is accessible to those on and off wheelchairs. The entire horticulture centre is accessible on the wheelchair and at the ground level, for people who can not use wheelchairs too. An occupational therapist will also be deployed in the project by whom everything will be overlooked," Dr. Kumar added.

APD was established in 1959 by the late N.S. Hema. APD has impacted over six lakh people with disabilities from underprivileged communities and rural backgrounds. With a diverse and inclusive team of over 230 members, APD reaches out to over 1,00,000 direct and indirect beneficiaries, annually, according to the organisation.

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 6, 1973

Procurement Prices: Karnataka Awaits Centre's Clearance

Bangalore, Nov. 7: The paddy procurement drive in Karnataka has got off to a good start even as the State Government is waiting for the Centre's concurrence for its scheme of procurement prices for four categories of paddy submitted about three weeks ago.

The delay in the Centre's concurrence is because it wants all States to fall in line with the broad scheme of uniformity. It also wants time to examine the recommendations.

The prices recommended by Karnataka were Rs. 70 a quintal for the coarse variety (corresponding more or less to the price announced by the Centre for standard varieties. Rs. 75 for mid-fine, Rs. 80 for fine and Rs. 85 for superfine varieties. A payment of Rs. 3 per quintal as cartage had also been proposed.

The Centre feels that the price differential between the lowest and highest categories should not exceed Rs seven a quintal, and the Karnataka scheme is being examined in that contest. If the Centre insists on conformity, the State's prices will have to be recast. The Centre is also opposed to the payment of bonus to bolster the procurement prices.

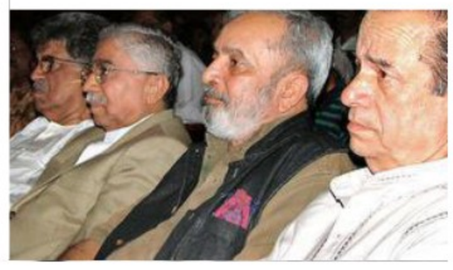
The State Government's procurement price scheme came to be publicised during the last session of the Upper House and had been generally welcomed, as reasonably good in the interest of the grower. It is not clear how the State Government will react if Delhi Insists on a restructuring of the procurement price scheme. In the meantime, paddy procurement has started off on a promising note in South Kanara district normally the earliest to harvest. According to reports, nearly 12,000 quintals of paddy has been procured.

Combining a love for music and literature

The 91-year-old sarod exponent has had an abiding influence on eminent Kannada writer Chandrasekhar Kambar, whose works have a strong connect with Pt. Taranath's musical journey.

Krishna Manavalli

> When Rajeev sits with his sarod, he is like a giant brooding over a child on his lap. When he delineates the ragas, it is like establishing a connection with something unknown
>
> CHANDRASEKHAR KAMBAR



Sharing the stage Rajeev Taranath; with (from left to right) Chandrasekhar Kambar, U. R. Ananthamurthy and Shimoga Subbanna, at the music festival organised as part of the birth anniversary celebration of Pandit Taranath in Bengaluru in 2004. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

At the age of 91, sarod maestro Pt. Rajeev Taranathji's passion for books, like his burning idealism, has not waned. You may find him reading Samuel Johnson into the wee hours of the night, talking brilliantly about Eliot in the morning, or on a nice afternoon, having an animated conversation about Kambar or Adiga's work. Music fills the house even at 4 a.m. when he begins his *sarod* practice. Receiving visitors from all walks of life – musicians, writers, theatre artistes, friends, and those who come seeking help and know that they will never return empty-handed – all this happens through the day.

His is a relentless struggle for perfection in music. He is also a people's person. Like in music, his achievements in literature are of the highest order. Foremost among those who shaped the modernist movement in Kannada, he is the first Indian to be referenced in the famous Arden edition of Shakespeare. His critical writings in Kannada are as influential as his work on Indian English writers like Raja Rao, Nissim Ezekiel, and R. K. Narayan. The maestro's ardent musical quest is essentially the stuff of literature.

Perhaps, it is only his friend of 50 years, the Jnanpith awardee and eminent Kannada writer Chandrasekhar Kambar, who has caught these plural aspects of Rajeev ji's personality in his works. In all the dreamers and artistes that the writer creates, we see Rajeev Taranath's image. A man in search of an impersonal and transcendent goal, but at the same time, ready to give himself up to a human cause. In the prose-poem *Chakori*, the young protagonist leaves his village in search of the 'moon raga', which will reveal the cosmic mystery. Still, he empathises deeply with people's sufferings. He brings rain to the village. Finally, he even sacrifices himself to save goddess Yakshi's life. Ninnadi in *Shikharasoorya* (who is Chandamutta reincarnated) is also a multi-dimensional character – doctor, thinker, warrior, and spiritual leader. In the end, he turns out be a sublime musician as well.

During a conversation, Chandrasekhar Kambar talks about his friendship of a lifetime with Rajeev Taranath, and how it created a meeting point between literature and music.

How did it all begin, this rare friendship?

I was working in Lingraj College in Belagavi. I had written *Helatini Kela* just then. I packed a notebook and set off to Dharwad with the manuscript. My plan was to read it to Keerthinath Kurtkoti, who was one of the important Kannada critics of the time. Keerthinath frequented the famous atta of the Manohar Grantamala (a pioneer publishing house in Karnataka). I went there. He sat talking to Rajeev Taranath. I had heard about Rajeev's great influence on *navya* Kannada writing. He was an English professor in Karnatak College in Dharwad at the time. Rajeev asked me to read what I had written. I told him it had to be sung, not read. He replied, 'Sing it then.' I warned, it'll take a long time. He said simply, 'Sing.' I sang. Then, we got into a literary discussion. It was late night. We went to his house in Saptapur. There were only two slices of dry bread in the kitchen. We dipped them in water and ate. He talked three in the morning. It was just wonderful!

Rajeev's association made me grow. From then on, my writing became confident. Writing in those days of high modernism in Kannada, I was unsure of my work. Besides, the *navya* writers hadn't responded in a big way to *Helatini Kela*. But he assured me saying, "You have a rich culture and language of your own to draw upon. Why should you feel inferior?" I returned to Belagavi and wrote *Rishyshringa* in the next six months. From then until now, I run everything I write by him and take his advice.

You have often spoken about the influence Rajeev's father had on your father...

In North Karnataka, there was deep reverence for Pandit Taranath (Rajeev's father), who was a well-known doctor. He gave lectures on matters ranging from social reform to spirituality, from medicine to music, from literature to art. My father was his disciple and admirer. So were many in North Karnataka. Rajeev is like his father.

Rajeev Taranath is literally part of your works...

When I wrote *Chakori*, I was thinking of how Rajeev went to Calcutta and all the hardships he experienced there. Chandamutta's musical life mirrors Rajeev's search for his guru. How he met Ustad Ali Akbar Khan and trained under him. He narrated it all to me. Few musicians have this kind of *guru-sishya* bond. Such a large heart and a brilliant mind. In folk culture, the values we create and live by, the relationships with literature, music, art are all interwoven with the fabric of everyday life. In my writing, I try to bring out this myth-like figure. There is something like penance in Rajeev's quest. It gives him a kind of force that you can't find in others.

Did Rajeev provide music for your film on Hampi?

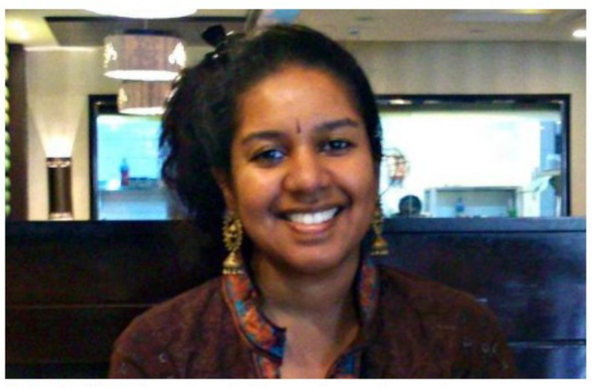
I have lost the entire reel, thanks to the bureaucratic mess of the time. But the experience of making it was memorable. How beautifully he sings too. I was making this documentary on Hampi. The great singing saint Purandara Dasa has composed a song, 'Lola lotte' (all is waste) which describes Hampi in ruins. I wanted this song playing in the background. When I was wondering who will sing it, Rajeev offered, 'Don't worry, I'll sing it.' I hadn't heard a dasapada sung like this. It was as if the whole tragedy of Hampi unfolded in front of my eyes. I want to listen to it again, but it can't be traced.

When Rajeev sits with his sarod, he looks like a giant brooding over a child on his lap. When he delineates the ragas, it is like establishing a connection with something unknown, yearning to connect this world with a world beyond. Like going back to something forgotten, a primordial and mythical space. You are filled with madness or bliss, or something that transcends both. I can't describe it. Rajeev is his music. When that music washes over us, we are left inchoate.

Pt. Rajeev Taranath and Chandrasekhar Kambara recently shared the stage during 91st birthday celebrations of the sarod exponent at Ravindra Kalakshetra in Bengaluru. The felicitation was followed by the sarod performance by the maestro.

Bringing ocarinas to life in a new avatar

Preeti Zachariah



Sound option Ceramic artist Sangeeta creates contemporary versions of a prehistoric instrumen. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Sangeeta Deepu holds up a cobalt peacock-shaped ocarina and blows into one end: a high-pitched, almost-primaeval note emanates from the vessel flute, taking one back to another place and time: ancient China and the Maya, Inca and Aztec civilisations that once flourished in the Americas. "There are records that indicate that they were used it for ritual practices," she says.

The ocarinas of the ancient world were made of different materials–clay, wood and bone–and came in varied shapes, some admittedly frightening.

"I wanted to bring the ocarina to life in a new avatar. What was the point in making the same thing that prehistoric people were making?" says Sangeeta, who has made the instrument in all sorts of shapes, including birds, animals and doll figures.

Her journey with ocarinas started around two years ago when Sangeeta, a trained ceramic artist and educator, decided to try something different with the medium. "So, I want back to prehistoric creations and discovered the ocarina," she says. The word ocarina means little goose, a name bestowed by the Italian Guiseppe Donati when he reinvented this ancient instrument in the 19th century.

"It was fascinating that something so small could produce music," says Sangeeta, who researched extensively trying to get the acoustics right.

It helped that she has a background in physics, admits Sangeeta, who first started making simple whistles before graduating to more complicated ocarinas.

"I was not successful in the beginning and would create all kinds of weird music," she says with a laugh.

"But I just kept pushing myself."

Since then, she has made a number of these instruments in addition to some ornamental whistles as well as a whistling bottle.

She also holds classes on how to make these sorts of ceramic objects, she adds.

"Designing and making these articles puts the mind in a peaceful and tranquil setting, detached from the stresses of modern living," believes Sangeeta. "At the end of the day, I have the satisfaction of having created something beautiful."

Seeing on screen Stills from the animated series. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

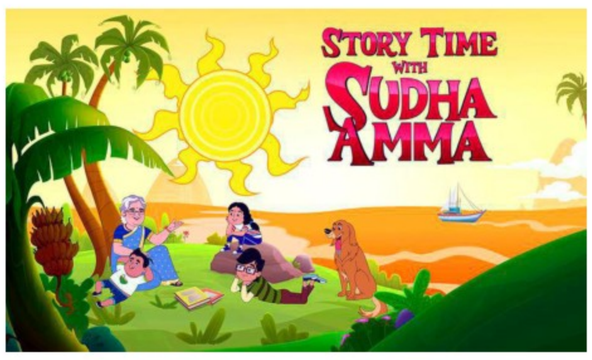
Gran goes online

Avid readers and fans of Sudha Murty's books for children will be delighted to see them on screen. An animated series titled, *Story Time with Sudha Amma*, will feature some of her most popular works such as, *Grandma's Bag of Stories, Grandparents' Bag of Stories,* and *The Magic Drum and Other Favourite Stories,* on YouTube.

The show which was launched on October 31, 2023, showcases 52 stories specially chosen for this series; they will be streamed in English and five Indian languages – Kannada, Tamil, Telugu, Hindi and Marathi.

Sudha Murty says the animated series was the brain child of her daughter-in-law Aparna Krishnan. "I had already written the books and done my part; everything else was conceptualised and created by Aparna," says the author. Aparna is president of Murty Media which is producing the series.

"Honestly, the idea came from the audience that love Sudha Murty's books and who wanted more in terms of content. That's where it started."



Right choice Sudha Murthy's stories are rooted in the Indian context and are relatable. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The project was two years in the making, Aparna says. "We went on an exploratory journey to make sure we got everything right."

"While there is a lot of video content out there for children, not much falls in the sweet spot of being both educational and entertaining. Sudha's stories perfectly checked both those boxes – they are rooted in the Indian context and are relatable; at the same time, they leave a nice message for children and adults to take back with them," she adds.

Aparna says the plan was to make these stories accessible to children in every village, town and city, which was why they opted for a multi-language launch on such a platform, "in the hope it resonated with everybody."

While the channel will initially stream 52 episodes from Sudha's most popular tales, Aparna says based on the reception the show receives, the team is open to exploring options.

Sudha's vast body of work made it difficult to pick and choose.

"For now, I am excited to see how children will react to their favourite characters and Gopi running around in every episode. You can see him all over the imaginary town of Vijaynagar," adds Sudha, who has lent her voice to the introductory narration, but not the voiceovers.

"While *Story Time with Sudha Amma*, is our flagship show, our mission is to create content that educates, celebrates, inspires, and enlightens, and is rooted in the Indian context. While we have begun with stories today, we hope to be a platform for other literally works and a gateway for the world to to appreciate our rich cultural heritage," says Aparna.

Episodes of 'Story Time with Sudha Amma' will be released weekly on youtube.com/@Murty-Media.

Gauri Lankesh case accused had befriended threat-letter writer, say probe agencies

Shivaji Rao, who was arrested in September, had allegedly harassed several prominent writers of Karnataka by writing them threat letters; probe agencies say he had been in contact with the accused who reportedly worked as the recruiter for the gang that killed the journalist and others

K.V. Aditya Bharadwaj
BENGALURU

The threat-letter writer who allegedly harassed several prominent writers in Karnataka for over a year, was arrested in September.

It has now emerged that the accused, Shivaji Rao Jadhav, 41, from Davangere, was befriended by Sujith Kumar, who allegedly worked as a recruiter for the gang that killed M.M. Kalburgi and Gauri Lankesh.

According to the investigation agencies, Sujith Kumar, hailing from Shivamogga district, was known to be identifying people – mostly those in Hindutva groups and highly motivated and capable of committing crimes – and grooming them.

He allegedly "brainwashed" them and recruited them into the gang, with most of those leading it linked to Goa-based Sanatan Sanstha and its sister-organisation Hindu Janjagruti Samiti, which allegedly killed four writers and activists in Maharashtra and Karnataka between 2013 and 2017, the agencies said.

Gauri Lankesh

He is listed as accused number 13 in the chargesheet filed by the Special Investigation Team (SIT) in the Gauri Lankesh case and is currently in judicial custody, even as the trial is under way.

The chargesheet alleges that Parashuram Waghmore, the alleged shooter of Ms. Gauri, was recruited by Sujith Kumar.

"Shivaji Rao Jadhav's name and his old phone number were found in a diary recovered from Sujith Kumar during his arrest in 2018. Shivaji confessed to have known him and to have met him multiple times. He confirmed the person by looking at his photograph, but he knows him by the name of Manjunath," a senior Central Crime Branch official, probing the threat-letter case, told *The Hindu*.

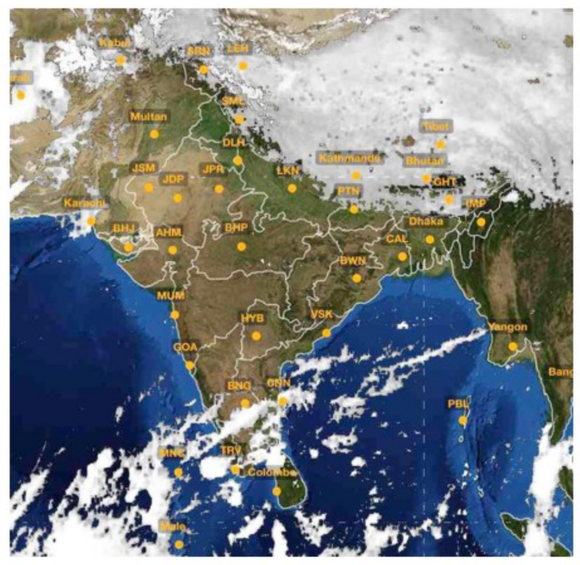
A Class 8 dropout, Shivaji Rao Jadhav was an office-bearer of the Hindu Jagarana Vedike in Davangere and was working in a printing press. He claims he was a regular reader of newspapers in a library nearby, apart from books that valourised Hindutva ideology, which prompted him to write the threat letters to several writers who were critical of the same. He had written multiple threat letters to Kum. Veerabhdrappa, B.T. Lalitha Nayak, Vasundhara Bhupati, Banjagere Jayaprakash, B.L. Venu, and seer Nijagunananda Swamy, before he was arrested.

The SIT that busted the module that allegedly murdered Ms. Gauri and others, recovered multiple diaries in which the key accused had written down their "hit list" and the names, and phone numbers of several individuals.

Many accused, including the alleged shooter of Ms. Gauri, were arrested following leads from these diaries.

WEATHERWATCH

Rainfall, temperature & air quality in select metros yesterday



TEMPERATURE DATA: IMD, POLLUTION DATA: CPCB, MAP: INSAT/IMD (TAKEN AT 18.00 HRS)

Forecast for Monday: Heavy to very heavy rainfall very likely at isolated places over Kerala and Mahe, and heavy rainfall at isolated places over Rayalaseema, South Interior Karnataka and Tamil Nadu, Puducherry and Karaikal

CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN	CITY	RAIN	MAX	MIN
Agartala	—	31.4	21.2	Kozhikode	36.0	30.2	24.4
Ahmedabad	—	36.4	20.2	Kurnool	113.0	33.5	22.6
Aizawl	—	29.5	14.9	Lucknow	—	31.4	17.5
Allahabad	—	32.8	18.0	Madurai	7.0	32.2	23.7
Bengaluru	1.7	29.0	20.8	Mangaluru	3.0	30.1	24.1
Bhopal	—	33.9	16.3	Mumbai	—	26.0	35.8
Bhubaneswar	12.0	31.0	23.0	Mysuru	3.0	—	—
Chandigarh	—	30.0	13.7	New Delhi	—	30.3	18.1
Chennai	0.5	31.3	25.2	Patna	—	31.3	19.9
Coimbatore	20.0	29.6	21.6	Port Blair	8.0	31.8	25.2
Dehradun	—	27.9	12.6	Puducherry	13.8	30.0	24.4
Gangtok	—	19.0	10.9	Pune	—	34.5	21.4
Goa	—	—	—	Raipur	—	30.6	20.0
Guwahati	—	30.2	20.0	Ranchi	—	28.6	17.0
Hubballi	—	30.0	22.0	Shillong	—	19.1	10.2
Hyderabad	—	30.8	22.8	Shimla	—	19.0	10.4
Imphal	—	27.5	13.7	Srinagar	—	20.0	2.5
Jaipur	—	33.0	20.2	Thiruvananthapuram	9.0	32.8	23.9
Kochi	78.0	31.6	24.2	Tiruchi	12.0	32.1	23.6
Kohima	—	21.8	12.0	Vijayawada	0.1	32.4	25.2
Kolkata	—	31.1	24.1	Visakhapatnam	—	32.2	25.0

(Rainfall data in mm; temperature in Celsius)

Pollutants in the air you are breathing

CITIES	SO_2	NO_2	CO	PM2.5	PM10	CODE
Ahmedabad	8	3	—	226	208	
Bengaluru	18	28	69	—	79	
Chennai	6	24	45	8	21	
Delhi	2	36	83	482	457	
Hyderabad	2	27	51	161	116	
Kolkata	7	24	2	158	126	
Lucknow	6	53	54	372	269	
Mumbai	9	30	70	287	197	
Pune	123	188	112	277	150	
Visakhapatnam	8	26	21	26	61	

Yesterday

In observation made at 4.00 p.m., Bawana, Delhi recorded an overall air quality index (AQI) score of 482 indicating an unhealthy level of pollution. In contrast, Alandur Bus Depot, Chennai recorded a healthy AQI score of 48.

Air Quality Code: Poor | Moderate | Good (Readings indicate average AQI)

SO_2: Sulphur Dioxide. Short-term exposure can harm the respiratory system, making breathing difficult. It can affect visibility by reacting with other air particles to form haze and stain culturally important objects such as statues and monuments.

NO_2: Nitrogen Dioxide. Aggravates respiratory illness, causes haze to form by reacting with other air particles, causes acid rain, pollutes coastal waters.

CO: Carbon monoxide. High concentration in air reduces oxygen supply to critical organs like the heart and brain. At very high levels, it can cause dizziness, confusion, unconsciousness and even death.

PM2.5 & PM10: Particulate matter pollution can cause irritation of the eyes, nose and throat, coughing, chest tightness and shortness of breath, reduced lung function, irregular heartbeat, asthma attacks, heart attacks and premature death in people with heart or lung disease

Bomb scare at Shivamogga railway station

The Hindu Bureau
SHIVAMOGGA

Two abandoned boxes on the premises of Shivamogga railway station on Sunday triggered a bomb scare in Shivamogga city. The police are waiting for experts from Bengaluru to examine the boxes. The boxes were left abandoned next to the compound wall of the railway station.

The autorickshaw drivers noticed them and informed the police. The boxes have been covered with gunny bags that carry the note, 'Made in Bangladesh'.

The police have cordoned off the area and placed sandbags around the boxes. They examined them with metal detectors and the dog squad. The police said to have identified the vehicle in which the boxes were carried to the spot and dropped them.

The district police have contacted the experts in Bengaluru who are expected to reach by late evening.

Meanwhile, the Shivamogga police have taken one person into custody for questioning in connection with the incident. A senior officer said attempts were being made to secure one more person. They said the incident could be something related to a cheating case, not a bomb scare.

'Flawed' trade policies blamed for crisis in coconut sector

Farmers at the National Round Table on coconut farming at Tiptur on Saturday. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

A National Round Table of coconut farmers and other stakeholders in the sector has observed that the present crisis in the country's coconut sector was mainly due to flawed policies related to trade and agreements that have resulted in dumping of edible oil from other countries.

The Round Table that had been organised by the Karnataka Rajya Raitha Sangha in Bideregudi of the State's coconut belt of Tiptur on Saturday expressed concern over India importing edible oil like palm oil instead of taking measures to promote the healthy coconut oil being produced by its own farmers.

The Round Table observed that such indiscriminate import of edible oil was responsible for the crash in prices of coconut and its products in India.

Taking serious note of such a situation, the Round Table adopted a resolution seeking a thorough review and prompt revision of the trade policy.

The trade policy should strike a balance between protecting domestic products and enhancing the country's competitiveness in the global market, it said. By implementing revised trade policies, the government could ensure that coconut growers have a level playing field for their produce both domestically and internationally, it observed.

The Round Table sought the establishment of a Free Trade Impact Monitoring Cell, comprising farmers' organisations to monitor and safeguard the interests of coconut farmers in the context of regional free trade agreements.

As an immediate measure to bail out the farmers in crisis, it demanded that the minimum support price for copra should be increased and unconditional procurement of all the ball copra produce.

GI tag sought for Tiptur ball copra

The Hindu Bureau
BENGALURU

The National Round Table of coconut farmers and other stakeholders also demanded that efforts be made to get Geographical Indication tag for Tiptur ball copra. The Round Table held at Tiptur on Saturday resolved to seek a special scientific study to establish geographical indication for the renowned Tiptur ball copra and its natural processing technology. It also suggested that collaborative efforts with institutions like CFTRI in Mysuru and the Institute of Development Studies in this regard.

The Round Table observed that such a tag would go a long way in benefiting the coconut farmers of the region.

Suspected poacher shot dead by Forest staff in Bandipur

The Hindu Bureau
MYSURU

One person, suspected to be a poacher, was shot dead in an exchange of fire between the Forest Department staff and a gang of eight to 10 persons in Maddur range of Bandipur Tiger Reserve in the early hours of Sunday.

The Forest Department personnel on field duty allegedly heard sounds of gun shots around midnight and a team was immediately rushed towards the source of the sound. On combing the area in the Maddur range the forest guards and anti-poaching camp personnel stumbled upon a gang of eight to 10 persons who allegedly fired at them.

Mr. Ramesh Kumar, Director, Bandipur Tiger Reserve, said the forest guards returned fire in which one person was killed while the remaining members of the gang disappeared under the cover of darkness. "We have launched a manhunt with the help of the police which is trying to zero in on them by tracking the mobile calls," said Mr. Ramesh Kumar.

It is suspected that the gang members were from Hongalli and surrounding villages where poaching takes place for meat on the forest periphery.

'Disgruntled' Cong. workers invited to line up with LDF

The Hindu Bureau
THIRUVANANTHAPURAM

The CPI(M) on Sunday invited Congress workers 'disgruntled' with their party's 'ambivalent stance' on the Palestine question to set aside provincial politics and line up with the Left Democratic Front to voice solidarity with "victims of Israel's genocidal war in the besieged Gaza province".

CPI(M) State secretary M.V. Govindan said the Congress had 'punished' Kerala Pradesh Congress Committee general secretary Aryadan Shoukath and his loyalists for rallying behind Palestine. He said the Congress dissuaded the Indian Union Muslim League (IUML) from participating in the LDF's pro-Palestine rally in Kozhikode on November 11.

Congress leader Shashi Tharoor "echoed his party's outlook" by terming Palestine resistance "terrorism". The UDF was a divided house rocked by internal contradictions.

BANGALORE WATER SUPPLY AND SEWERAGE BOARD

INVITATION FOR TENDER (Through KPP Portal Only)

BWSSB invites Tenders from Registered Agencies for the following works.

Office of the Chief Engineer (East), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

Sl No.	Division	IFT Number	Amount put to tender / EMD (In Rs.)	Last date & time for Submission of Tender	Date & time for Opening of Tender
1	East-2	BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2364/2023-24 Date: 02.11.2023	Rs. 13,04,921/- / Rs. 32,625/-	20.11.2023 upto 4.00 pm	22.11.2023 after 4.30 pm
		BWSSB/EE(E)-2/PB/2365/2023-24 Date: 02.11.2023	Rs. 11,85,556/- / Rs. 29,650/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (East-2)

Office of the Chief Engineer (West), 6th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

2	West-1	BWSSB/EE(W)-1/PB/2076/2023-24 Date: 02.11.2023	Rs. 18,50,108/- / Rs. 46,300/-	20.11.2023 upto 4.00 pm	21.11.2023 after 4.30 pm
		BWSSB/EE(W)-1/PB/2078/2023-24 Date: 02.11.2023	Rs. 21,77,094/- / Rs. 54,500/-		

Sd/- Executive Engineer (West-1)

Office of the Chief Engineer (South), 7th Floor, Cauvery Bhavan, KG Road, Bengaluru-560009.

3	South West-2	BWSSB/EESW-2/TO/PB/2004/2023-24 Date: 02.11.2023	Rs. 24,61,619/- / Rs. 50,000/-	15.11.2023 upto 12.00 noon	17.11.2023 after 12.00 Noon

Sd/- Executive Engineer (South West-2)

The detail regarding the tender & participation in the e-procurement portal process can be obtained by logging on to **https://kppp.karnataka.gov.in.** For further details contact the above signed office during working hours.

DIPR/CP/1986/Zen/2023-24

Tiding over

India's States should ensure greater compliance on air pollution

Delhi and parts of the surrounding States of Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh encounter their annual air quality inflection point. This is the time when the southwest monsoon has receded and with it, the great drafts in the upper atmosphere that normally flush out pollutants from the gamut of anthropogenic activities such as construction, driving, power generation and the burning of agricultural residue. Through the years, there have been studies commissioned and executive action initiated to study, acknowledge and address the crisis. The science is also fairly clear on the relative contribution of pollutants and the limits of corrective intervention in the face of adverse meteorology and the disruption to economic life that this can entail. The consequence of this is that the air pollution crisis has now devolved into a stalemate. The Commission for Air Quality Management (CAQM), which is tasked with addressing the causes of air pollution in Delhi and the adjoining States, is now a body packed with expertise but whose powers are limited to evoking and recommending grades of measures depending on the degree of deterioration in air quality.

While the CAQM pointed out, as recently as October 31, that the daily average air quality in Delhi from January to October of this year was the best in the last six years, it elides the fact that the number of days in November when air quality becomes 'severe' (over 450 AQI) has remained roughly the same. Thus, in 2022, the AQI was in the severe category in the first fortnight of November for three days, the same as in 2021, 2020 and 2019. While there is greater awareness and action to curb the sources of pollution, November, which has in recent years emerged as the critical month for pollution, remains to be tamed. Incidents of stubble burning in Punjab, Haryana and Uttar Pradesh this year have been roughly half that when compared to previous years, though the weeks ahead are expected to see more such activity. While the measures earlier have seen an institutionalised response to tackle air pollution, it is now time for a concerted approach to address these challenges of November. Beyond stubble burning, this means addressing the more daunting challenges of vehicular pollution and construction dust. While urban Delhi could have always blamed the distant farm fires for the pollution crisis, tackling November may mean hard measures and greater inconvenience. Bodies such as the CAQM have to assert their independent credentials and ensure greater coordination and compliance within Delhi and the surrounding States to address the challenge.

Revenue rebound

October's GST collections mark a shift from some recent trends

Gross Goods and Services Tax (GST) revenues hit their second highest monthly tally in October at a little over ₹1.72 lakh crore, breaking a few long- and short-term trends. To start with, they reflect a 13.4% uptick over last year's kitty, the highest so far in 2023. Moreover, it reverses a persistent deceleration in revenue growth seen through the second quarter of this financial year. From an average growth of 11.5% between April and June, the rise in GST revenues had slowed to 10.6% between July and September, with the last month seeing a 27-month low uptick of 10.2%. The Finance Ministry shall hope that this growth rate pick-up sustains so that its 2023-24 fiscal math gets some buffer from any possible spending or subsidy shocks, whether they arise from external risks such as fuel or urea prices or internal ones such as pre-election goodies like extending the free food-grains programme. Seen over a broader timeframe, last month's mid-year indirect tax collections bely a pattern that the highest revenues are received in April as businesses close their books of accounts for the financial year. Year-end compliances had propped up this April's kitty to a record ₹1.87 lakh crore.

The entire bump up in October's revenues, stemming from transactions undertaken in September, may not be ascribed to a consumption spike at the onset of the festive season. Experts believe the Revenue Department's continuing crackdown on the non-compliant, and a September 30 deadline for settling any disputes that may have arisen since the GST regime's launch in 2017-18, also played a role. However, there is some indication of a recovery in domestic demand. While revenues from domestic transactions and services imports grew 13%, the revenue growth from imports that the Finance Ministry did not explicitly disclose, was sharper at 13.94%. This is not only the fastest uptick in at least nine months but also marks only the third time in seven months that goods import revenues have grown. Some of this must reflect a rebound in discretionary demand, even if this may be largely for premium or high-end goods rather than a broad-based bump. If this sustains through the festive season, revenues could hold up even if companies are reporting some weakening of demand growth in October in consumer goods, especially in rural areas. A new amnesty scheme to settle a limited set of GST demands, unveiled last week for taxpayers who failed to appeal them in time, may also bolster the kitty as it mandates firms to deposit an additional amount of the disputed levy for consideration. Anyone tracking the trajectory of GST as a high-frequency indicator to assess the economy's growth prospects must not lose sight of such factors.

Giving the urban Indian a better life

Sandeep Chachra
is Executive Director of Action Aid India

Tikender Singh Panwar
is a former Deputy Mayor of Shimla

The theme of World Cities Day (October 31) this year was "Financing Sustainable Urban Future for All." Finances must be channelled in the right direction such that urban futures which are being cut short on account of flawed urbanisation are checked, and, in turn, cities made liveable and safe. It is atrocious that air pollution is taking away over 10% of our life expectancy.

A report released by The Energy Policy Institute at Chicago (EPIC) shows that out of the 50 most polluted cities in the world, 39 are in India. Pollution directly affects the health of people, and an average Indian loses 5.3 years of his life expectancy due to this; for the residents of Delhi, it is 11.9 years. This data only highlights the need for policy shifts to ensure better and liveable futures.

Pollution results in burning eyes, irritation of the nose and throat, coughing, choked breath, and asthma apart from causing cardiovascular diseases. Recently, a media report labelled air pollution in Mumbai as "Death by Breath" due to very unsatisfactory Air Quality Index levels. Bad air is not limited to the Indo-Gangetic plains anymore where the argument of inversion of temperature and slowing down of wind speeds was considered as a factor for poor air quality. The situation is getting to be bad even in India's coastal cities.

The expansion of 'grey' infrastructure

Why is the problem so acute in Indian cities? The overall development strategy of urban development in India – apart from proper execution of enforcement by agencies – needs a paradigm shift. The need now is to turn to sustainable and "ecological urbanization". The trajectory of urban development, where the focus is more on real estate development, a widening of roads, allowing large fuel guzzling vehicles on them, in turn squeezing the space meant for pedestrians, and redevelopment are the major reasons for increased pollution in Indian cities. Road dust, concrete batching, polluting industrial units and their extension in the cities, and vehicular emissions are key factors too. It is estimated that motorised transport alone is the cause for 60% of urban pollution. The green lungs of the cities, water bodies, urban forests, and green cover on urban commons, and urban agriculture have all reported shrinkage, even as "grey" infrastructure has seen rapid expansion. Hence, the priorities need to be set right.

During winter in North India, there is a hullabaloo over the burning of paddy straw (called *Parali*) as being the cause for smog (smoke and particulate matter). This is partially true. The burning of paddy, primarily in Haryana and Punjab, only escalates the problem. But this is only a small and seasonal part of the problem. India's automobile market has risen in value from $100 billion and is expected to touch almost $160 billion by 2027, registering a growth of 8.1%. Between July 2023 to September 2023, passenger and commercial vehicles sales touched 13,22,818 units. While this figure is not only limited to urban India, it is clear that such growth must serve as an impetus to the new design of and direction to urban development. Widening roads, in turn inducing people to buy more cars, while ignoring the fact that traffic snarls are increasing each day, thus leading to more pollution levels, is not the way to go. Construction activities, which are on the rise in almost every Indian city, contribute to roughly 10% of air pollution in the National Capital Region region. There are hardly any steps being taken to monitor and control construction activities with formulated standard operating procedures.

Data show that India is home to some of the most polluted cities in the world, highlighting the need for a citizen-involved strategy of city building

City residents, unfortunately, have hardly any participatory role and are forced to become passive bystanders in the urbanisation process.

Focus on public transport

There is a compelling need to have an alternative strategy of city building, where the focus is on more public transport, having secure pedestrian paths and bicycle lanes with the creation of a post of bicycle officers, and regulating construction activities through standard operating procedures.

There needs to be good public transport, with investment in buses for towns and cities. It is estimated that nearly 10 lakh buses would need to be added to the existing bus fleet in cities to meet the demands of urban mobility. There must be firm initiatives that emulate the Jawaharlal Nehru National Urban Renewal Mission. Public transport must be made accessible and affordable to people, 85% of whom are in the informal sector.

Strong steps need to be taken to control private motorised vehicular movement in the cities. A congestion tax being levied on private car owners driving during peak hours can be thought of. Likewise, an odd number-even number plate formula can be another important intervention. Some cities have a no car day on certain days – an example that should be put into practice by those in power and with influence. City leaders, the elite as well State Chief Ministers should use public transport at least once a day as an example of token motivation. Transitioning to green vehicles is important.

Delhi has a Graded Response Action Plan, or GRAP (a set of anti-air pollution measures), the moment air quality deteriorates. There are four different sets that get activated based on the quality of air. Such a mechanism must be adopted in other Indian cities as well.

There should be zero acceptance of industrial pollution and real-time monitoring must become a reality. There must be street supervision by residents instead of waiting for the statutory bodies to react, which urban local bodies can ensure.

Urban commons (ponds, water bodies, urban forests, parks, playgrounds) are another major area that should not at all be allowed to be taken over by either public or private bodies for private gains. Urban communities must protect, nurture and expand them.

Ian McHarg's influential book, written in the 1960s, *Designing with Nature*, synthesised and generalised ecological wisdom shaping landscape planning and design as a way to build our cities. However, our urban development strategy has been the inverse of that. Massive land use changes and the handing over of open spaces to real estate developers do not look to be ending anytime soon. Redevelopment across the country has resulted in pollution. A city's ecology is one of the first casualties and there is hardly any meaningful afforestation within a city. Planting trees 50 kilometres away from the city does not help in curtailing pollution in the city.

Strengthen governance

So-called solutions such as smog towers or even watering roads are just cosmetic. People's empowerment through the city's governance architecture is a firm step forward. Pollution guides and standard operating procedures for various line departments and agencies must not only be made readily available to the people but should also become a part of the way of life in the city. When certain standard operating procedures were enforced without being challenged during the COVID-19 pandemic period, should not people come forward now and support implementation of the odd number-even number plate formula or even a 'no-car day' every week? For this to happen, there must be a strong GRAP-like standard operating procedure. Likewise, the medical fraternity must support the putting out of a public health advisory.

We cannot afford to let our lives be shortened by reasons such as air pollution. The poor and the marginalised are the least contributors to pollution but are the segment who are most exposed to it and who pay a heavy price. They need a better life.

Much to lose if the 'Indian veterans in Qatar' case festers

K.P. Sanjeev Kumar
is a retired Indian Navy test pilot

India was presented with a formidable diplomatic challenge on October 26 when eight former Indian Navy officials held in Qatar on unknown charges since August 30 last year were sentenced to death by a Qatari 'Court of First Instance'. Their families who were hoping that back-channel efforts might secure their release now face the most extreme prospect – the death row. The court's sentence left the Indian establishment "deeply shocked", as in the Ministry of External Affairs statement. Some *prima facie* assessments can be made. First, all the eight veterans receiving the maximum punishment seems to be an 'unexpected outcome'. Second, the opacity of charges and the complete secrecy under which Qatar moved from trial to conviction in under seven months seem to have taken the Indian side by surprise. Hopefully, the passage of time has allowed the Indian authorities to assimilate the full import of the judgment and weigh their options.

The company's background, its work

The veterans were working for an Omani company, Dahra Global Technologies, in an associated vertical based out of Doha. It is understood that the said vertical has now been shuttered. The company website was deactivated soon after news broke of the naval officials being incarcerated. If business rivalry had any role to play in the entire saga, its purpose has been singularly achieved.

The company and the kind of work it was doing since 2009-10 needs deeper examination. The area of expertise of Dahra at Doha was in training the Qatar Emiri Naval Forces (QENF). If we go back a few years, this space was largely filled by uniformed personnel from neighbouring countries such as Pakistan and Bahrain. Qatar has a unique demography where expatriates and migrant workers make up almost 88% of the population.

One of the wealthiest countries today, the kingdom of Qatar has traditionally enjoyed a warm and cordial relationship with India. This writer is aware of requests made between 2006 and 2008 from various levels of the Qatari establishment and the QENF to provide training for their sailors and junior officers. This was always seen as a vital cog in the wheel of India-Qatar bilateral defence cooperation and foreign policy. However, incompatible solutions and the Indian side dragging its feet possibly led to private enterprise filling the gaps.

The Indian ruling establishment must display unprecedented leadership in saving the lives of the eight former Indian Navy officials being held in Qatar

By this time, Commander Purnendu Tiwari (one of the eight men), a distinguished naval veteran, had created a successful enterprise in Singapore. The time was ripe to replicate the model in Qatar, with due adjustments being made to accommodate security concerns, and the culture and milieu of the Cooperation Council for the Arab States of the Gulf (GCC).

With leadership and cooperation from all sides, the model became an instant success, providing a valuable second career option for talented officers and men retiring from the Indian Navy. Contrary to speculative reports that have found their way into the discourse, Cdr. Tiwari and his team were engaged only in junior-level training and had absolutely nothing to do with any submarine project, let alone a classified one.

Cdr. Tiwari was conferred the Pravasi Bhartiya Samman Award by the President of India Ram Nath Kovind in January 2019 for "enhancing India's image abroad". Cdr. Tiwari is the first Indian armed forces veteran to be awarded this honour meant for non-resident Indians and a Person of Indian Origin.

India's defence veterans were delivering a sterling product to the QENF and had blended in with Qatari society. Most of them lived with their families in Qatar, with some family members pursuing their own careers. Cdr. Tiwari's team, like every Indian among the estimated diaspora of 8,00,000 Indians, was contributing its mite to building Qatar, under the leadership of HRH Sheikh Tamim bin Hamad Al Thani. In my opinion, the veterans had absolutely no interest or incentive in spying or espionage as is being made out in the case against them. What random acts of indiscretion or oversight led to the framing of such serious charges may never be known.

Since their incarceration in September 2022, India has provided the veterans with the best legal assistance. According to family members, three out of six charges stuck, leading to the sentence. There are just two levels left remaining in the legal rung of Qatar (the Court of Appeals and Court of Cassation). The Emir has the power to pardon or offer clemency and is known to have exercised this benevolence. Qatar does not have a long history of executing people, but the geopolitical backdrop against which this saga unfolds holds many uncertainties. Most of the eight veterans are in their late fifties and sixties. Even if the death sentence is commuted to life (25 years), they face the prospect of spending the rest of their lives behind bars.

Impact on diplomatic ties

The terrible turn of events could not have come at a more inopportune juncture for the veterans and their families. Dahra Global Technologies in Qatar is no longer a going concern, which means the personnel and their families have only the Indian government to turn to. India's nuanced position on the ongoing Israel-Hamas war and support to the Palestinian cause will be put to the test against Qatar's emerging role in working out a rapprochement between the Arab world and Israel, even as world leaders weigh their options. India's relationship with Qatar will head south if this diplomatic row is not settled on mutually acceptable terms.

Despite the best legal and diplomatic assistance extended by India, the court has pronounced its judgment. Qatar is a friendly foreign country and there is an existing bilateral agreement to expatriate convicted citizens. However, Article 4 of the agreement excludes the death penalty. India's status in the Global South, just as that of Qatar's in the GCC, owes much to the visionary leaders of both countries. There is much to lose if this case festers. It will be far worse if the sentence is executed or the space left behind by Dahra Global is occupied by radical elements inimical to both countries.

I have hope that the Indian political leadership will rise to the challenge and appeal to the Emir's benevolence to consider a complete and unconditional pardon for all eight naval veterans. This will be in the best interest of both countries. Unprecedented situations call for unprecedented leadership. The solution to seemingly complex problems is often just a few phone calls away.

The views expressed are personal

LETTERS TO THE EDITOR

Ration scheme extended

The Prime Minister's announcement of the free ration scheme being extended for another five years (Page 1, November 5) raises pertinent questions. If the free ration scheme is not a freebie, what is it then?

Why raise a hue and cry when other political parties announce free schemes? If freebies are acceptable, why not accept them in all honesty? If 80 crore Indians are in dire straits and would need free supplies, then how can we claim to be a nation that is developing rapidly? How would the government manage free supplies? Why cannot there be a system where food grains are made available at affordable prices? Our progress seems to be lopsided and uneven. By providing a few kilogrammes of ration for free, are we not acknowledging the fact that many go to bed without a square meal?

Balasubramaniam Pavani,
Secunderabad

Graft and Chhattisgarh

While the investigative agencies are free to probe corruption, they need to be circumspect when it comes to making premature statements that are likely to influence a voter. In a way, the development in Chhattisgarh reinforces the Opposition's claim of the Enforcement Directorate (ED) being weaponised to target the BJP's political rivals. One would not be surprised if the press statement by the ED as far as the Mahadev betting App promoters case is concerned is at the behest of the powers that be. Unfortunately, the Election Commission seems indifferent to what is a breach of the model code of conduct.

S.K. Choudhury,
Bengaluru

Letters emailed to letters@thehindu.co.in must carry the full postal address.

A leaf out of New Zealand's voting system

Vipul Anekant
is
Deputy Commissioner of Police, Delhi Police

At first glance, Odisha and Auckland seem worlds apart. They differ starkly in the Human Development Index, education levels, and socio-economic indicators. However, if we scrutinise their political behaviour, similarities emerge. Both regions exemplify the concept of split voting. This offers a nuanced understanding of voter behaviour and the efficacy of electoral systems.

Odisha's unique set-up of concurrent Lok Sabha and State Assembly elections demonstrates the electorate's differentiated political choices. Odisha held simultaneous elections in 2019. Voters cast both their votes on the same day, but split their voting patterns. Considering the Lok Sabha votes, the Biju Janata Dal (BJD) led in 88 out of 146 Assembly Constituencies. However, on the same day for Assembly votes, the BJD won 113 out of 146 Assembly Constituencies. The difference amounted to 25 seats and almost a 2% vote share for the BJD.

The MMP system

India follows the first-past-the-post voting system, while New Zealand uses the mixed member proportional (MMP) system. Under MMP, voters cast two votes: a 'party vote' that determines the overall composition of the 120-seat Parliament and an 'electorate vote' to elect a local MP for their geographical constituency. The FPTP method decides the local MP election. There are 72 electorate seats, and parties fill the other 48 list seats. Each party submits a ranked party list to the Electoral Commission of New Zealand before the polls. Parties then elect candidates from this list as list MPs. The electorate vote does not alter the overall party representation in Parliament. Voters can split their vote. Giving both votes to one political party is a 'double tick'. Allocating votes to two different parties is a split vote.

The MMP system allows a voter to choose a candidate from a different party if they don't like the local candidate from their preferred party. This choice doesn't dilute the impact of their vote on their preferred political party's final tally in Parliament. This was evident in the 2020 Auckland Central parliamentary election. Voters chose Chlöe Swarbrick, a Green Party candidate, as their local MP; yet, the same constituency favoured the Labour Party in their party vote. Such results confirm the electorate's mindful, diverse voting patterns. As per the Electoral Commission of New Zealand, 31.86% of votes in 2020 were split votes, from 27.33% in 2017. Voters in eight out of 72 electorate seats created 'switch seats.' In a switch seat, voters pick a candidate from one party but give their party vote to another, meaning the elected local MP comes from a party that doesn't secure the majority of party votes.

In the recent parliamentary elections, Auckland Central voters again exhibited the same split pattern. Preliminary results suggest that voters chose Ms. Swarbrick from the Green Party as their local MP but favoured the National Party in their party vote. Besides, the party vote share for the Labour Party and ACT party in the Auckland Central electorate was more than three times of their respective candidate's vote share in the same constituency. There were 13 such 'switch seats'.

Advantages

The MMP system has its own share of criticism. For instance, it may prompt tactical voting, where voters might support a party that they don't necessarily endorse just to keep another party out of power. However, the benefits seem to outweigh these drawbacks. The first benefit is that the split voting system allows for more localised accountability for elected representatives. They can't just ride a party wave. The second is policy focus. As parties don't need to concentrate on individual candidate winnability, they can emphasise on policies and ideologies to garner party votes. The third is that MMP improves representation for women, indigenous communities, differently abled people, and other deprived groups. Before MMP's introduction, New Zealand had only a 21% representation of women in 1993; now, 51% of MPs are women. Maori representation has also risen. Fourth, MMP enhances democracy by letting voters express a diverse range of political preferences without wasting their votes. Every party vote gets counted to determine how many seats a party gets. Fifth, the system provides flexibility, allowing voters to select the best candidate-party combination according to their beliefs. Both party and candidate are chosen by voters in a mutually exclusive manner with no effect on each other. Sixth, after introduction of MMP, the average age of an MP in New Zealand has considerably declined. It was 47.3 years in the 2020 elections. This has been possible because of the low entry barrier for young politicians thanks to split voting choices.

In the Indian electoral framework, compulsive voting often curtails the liberty of voters to express their genuine preference. Many hesitate to vote for candidates outside their preferred party or perceived winnable contenders, fearing repercussions on the broader political canvas. A split voting system could offer a solution by allowing voters to choose candidates based on merit while ensuring that their party preference determines legislative composition. The essence of democracy lies in offering nuanced and, if need be, diverse choices. The ability to distinguish between candidate and party signifies a mature democracy. Although historically, the Indian electorate might have been wary of split voting, contemporary political behaviour, as seen in Odisha, indicates an eagerness to embrace such nuanced choices.

A split voting system, such as the one in New Zealand, could allow voters to choose candidates based on merit while ensuring that their party preference determines legislative composition

Muddying the waters

The Kaleshwaram Project has assumed centre stage in the electoral battle

STATE OF PLAY

B. Chandrashekar
chandrashekar.bhalki@thehindu.co.in

As the main political parties in Telangana gear up for the Assembly elections by arguing about a host of issues, the Kaleshwaram Lift Irrigation Project (KLIP) appears to be assuming centre stage, particularly after the sinking of a few piers of the Medigadda Barrage of the KLIP on October 21.

The opposition Congress has turned KLIP into a poll issue to target the ruling Bharat Rashtra Samithi (BRS). It has alleged that the BRS has misappropriated ₹1 lakh crore from the project. Senior Congress leader Rahul Gandhi visited the area of the sunken pillars a few days ago and posted on X that the cracks exposed the corruption in the government. Earlier, at public meetings and during his Bharat Jodo Yatra, Mr. Gandhi targeted BRS president and Chief Minister K. Chandrashekar Rao and accused his family of using Kaleshwaram as an "ATM".

The ruling party has hit back at the opposition by demanding to know how ₹1 lakh could have possibly been swindled given that expenditure on the project has not reached a six-digit figure. The BRS has also been referring to Union Minister of State for Jal Shakti Bishweswar Tudu's statement in Parliament in July 2021 that "no instances of corruption in the execution of Kaleshwaram Project have come to the Centre's notice".

Apart from the sinking of piers of Medigadda Barrage on October 21, the November 1 report of the National Dam Safety Authority (NDSA) expert team after its visit to the barrage site on October 23 and 24 has provided the Congress and the BJP ammunition before the election. In a letter to the State government, the NDSA said that it had found the barrage to be severely compromised, rendering it useless unless it is fully rehabilitated. While State Irrigation department officials said that the piers sank because the sand beneath them got washed away, the NDSA said that the piers sank due to a combination of factors related to planning, design, quality control, and operation and maintenance.

Anti-corruption campaign

Much like in Karnataka, where it initiated a 'PayCM' campaign to allege that the Basavaraj Bommai-led BJP government was charging 40% commission on public works, the Congress has grabbed this moment to launch an anti-corruption campaign in Telangana too. In Karnataka, the party stuck 'PayCM' posters with a QR code that took users to a website called '40% Sarkara'. In Telangana, it has readied several dummies of ATMs to accuse the ruling BRS of having made easy money from the project. It has also published an 80-page booklet highlighting corruption in the project and is using it as material for electioneering. Leaders of the Bharatiya Janata Party (BJP) have also referred to the project to target the BRS.

Taken aback by the unexpected turn of events relating to the Kaleshwaram project such as the sinking of the piers on October 21 and leaks under the foundation later, the BRS has been on the defensive. Reacting to the critical NDSA report, a senior leader of the BRS said that the report was self-contradictory as it recommended "carrying out a detailed investigation to determine the causes of failure" while also blaming the design, build, operation and maintenance with just an "exterior examination" of the damage.

"The opposition parties had raised similar ruckus when flood waters submerged the Kannepally pump-house attached to the Medigadda Barrage and inundated the Annaram pump-house linked to the Annaram Barrage in July 2022. We had unprecedented floods then, and the highest-ever recorded flood level of 28.7 lakh cusecs in the Godavari river against the designed discharge capacity of 28.25 lakh cusecs. Within four months the two pump-houses were back in use at the costs of the work agency," the BRS leader said.

While the exact causes of the damage to Medigadda Barrage can be ascertained only after a detailed investigation, the opposition is now fired up. It is going to take a lot more for the Congress and the BJP to unsettle the BRS, which, despite facing anti-incumbency, still enjoys widespread support. However, the issue and the battle of perceptions that it has generated has made the electoral contest more interesting. It has also somewhat put to rest the murmurs and allegations that there is an 'understanding' between the BRS and the BJP in Telangana.

Who goes to Kota's coaching classes and why

A survey by the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies shows that Kota has become a NEET coaching hub

DATA POINT

Abhinav Pankaj Borbora, Devesh Kumar, Subhabita Krishna & Priyanka Mittal

It is a sad comment on India's education system and its employment scene that there are more and more coaching centres than colleges and universities nowadays. Some cities, such as Kota in Rajasthan, are in fact synonymous with their coaching centres, which are known to ensure that their students perform well in the various entrance examinations for professional courses.

However, of late, Kota has been in the headlines for the wrong reasons as rising student suicides have shifted focus to the mismatch between aspirations and opportunities. While Kota is not the only city known for its coaching centre, we attempt in this study to look at it as a case study to throw light on the question of why students choose to go to such centres and what they negotiate during their preparations for various exams.

With this objective, Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS) conducted a survey of more than 1,000 students between the first and second week of October 2023. Thirty per cent of the sample consisted of girl students. The survey was conducted face-to-face using a structured questionnaire in Hindi. Each interview took 15-20 minutes to be completed. This is the first data point of a three-part series on Kota.

A majority of students who study in Kota's coaching centres come from Bihar (32%), Uttar Pradesh (23%), Rajasthan (18%), and Madhya Pradesh (11%). Nearly half of them belong to cities and small towns; only 14% come from villages. Mostly, they have a middle class background. The primary earners of their families are engaged mainly in government service (27%), business (21%), and agriculture (14%).

Thirteen per cent of the students studying in Kota have immediate family members who studied in Kota, while 28% have extended relatives who did so. These students mainly heard of Kota from these relatives. More than half the students (53%) do not have relatives who studied in Kota earlier. Forty-four per cent of the students said that they came to know about the town's institutes through social media. Nearly half the students (46%) moved to Kota because of the reputation of its coaching centres, 39% moved to the town on the insistence of their parents, and 10% were influenced by friends who were going to Kota **(Table 1)**.

The majority of students at Kota are boys, only 37% are girls. Given that students are usually expected to appear for entrance exams after higher secondary education, most students are aged 15-19 years.

NEET, the entrance test for admission to medical colleges, appears to have the most takers among Kota's students with 59% going to coaching centres in the town to prepare for it. Of them, 76% are girls. The other popular choice is JEE, the test for admission into engineering programmes, with 35% preparing for it. This test is more popular among the boys with 46% preparing for it compared with 16% girls.

Most students who do not manage to clear JEE or NEET in their first attempt move out. Close to half the students (49%) will be appearing in these entrance exams for the first time. In contrast, 26% continue to be in Kota after their first attempt **(Table 2)**. That number comes down further to 13% with regard to those who have already made two attempts.

A good number of students (29%) were also enrolled in other coaching centres before deciding to move to Kota. It is safe to say that students often choose to move because they were not satisfied with their exam performance. Among those who will be making their first attempt, only 23% undertook coaching elsewhere before moving to Kota. That figure climbs to 39% with regard to those who have already sat for the exam twice **(Table 3)**.

Besides preparing for these exams at coaching centres, students also need to be enrolled in a school to clear their board examinations. Clearing the board exam is a mandatory condition for becoming eligible to appear in entrance exams. Among those who are enrolled, only 16% go to regular school. A staggering 81% of coaching centre students are instead enrolled in 'dummy schools' **(Table 4)** . These 'schools' do not require them to attend regular classes; they merely enable them to satisfy the requirement of sitting for board examinations.

While carrying out their exam preparation in Kota, a majority (49%) of the students live in hostels and 30% live as paying guests. While these are the most common choices of accommodation among students, a smaller number of them (17%) also rent apartments. Living conditions in these accommodations vary. With regard to the quality of food served in hostels and paying guest accommodations across Kota, only 12% students said it is very good; 27% said they do not like it and 57% said the food was passable.

Despite all these challenges, year after year, a large number of students move to Kota, join one of its many coaching centres, enrol in 'dummy schools', and find accommodation. Most of them often put up with barely passable living conditions. What makes them go through all this is? The majority of the students (65%) consider clearing JEE or NEET exams to be extremely important **(Table 5)**. They see these exams as a means to a better life. Thirty-five per cent feel that clearing JEE or NEET will help them settle down well in life, 22% believe that their respect in society will increase, and 16% hope that their economic condition will improve **(Table 6)**.

Dream factory

The tables are from the Lokniti-Centre for the Study of Developing Societies (CSDS)'s survey of students in Kota

Student magnet: Students write their wishes on the wall of the Radha Krishna Temple in Kota, Rajasthan. R V MOORTHY

Table 1: How did you decide to start taking coaching classes at Kota?

Parameter	(%)
Reputation of the coaching centres	46
Sent by parents	39
Because friends were going	10

Table 2: How many times have you appeared for the JEE or NEET exam?

Parameter	(%)
Will be making first attempt	49
One	26
Two	13
Three or more	2

Table 3: Before getting admitted to a coaching centre in Kota, did you take coaching classes elsewhere?

Number of attempts	Took coaching elsewhere before Kota (%)
Will be making first attempt	23
One	30
Two	39

Table 4: Do you go to a regular or distant school?

Parameter	(%)
Distant school	81
Regular school	16

Table 5: How important is it for you to succeed in NEET or JEE exam?

Parameter	(%)
Extremely important	65
Somewhat important	26
Not important	4

Table 6: If you clear JEE or NEET, what will change in your life?

Parameter	(%)
Economic conditions will improve	16
Respect in society will increase	22
Will be able to settle down properly	35
Fulfilment of passion	20

FROM THE ARCHIVES
The Hindu.

FIFTY YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 6, 1973

PM goes to office in horse-drawn coach

New Delhi, Nov. 5: Reacting, like most other members of the consumer public, to the sharply increased price of petrol, the Prime Minister, Mrs. Indira Gandhi to-day abandoned the use of her motor car and drove from her residence to the Secretariat and back home, a total distance of 8 km., in a horse-drawn vehicle. Riding in the old-fashioned Victorian buggy, Mrs. Gandhi made history, being the first Prime Minister of India to use this obsolete mode of conveyence to commute to office. While Mrs. Gandhi herself did not seem to mind the least having to adjust to the anachronistic vehicle, her security staff were manifestly uneasy. Mrs. Gandhi, who was confronted by a battery of photographers and a newsman as she emerged out of South Block to proceed to her residence at No. 1, Safdarjung Road, for lunch, said in Hindi, "*Arre Bhai, Yeh Koh Publicity Stunt Thodi Hai* (This is no publicity stunt)." A patrol car preceded the buggy and two security cars followed it. Mrs. Gandhi, wearing a white saree with red stripes, seemed to enjoy the ride in a pleasantly warm November morning. Throughout the drive to her residence, she was engrossed in leafing through a file. It was an unusual sight for the people. A surprised pedestrian remarked: "Seems to be the ideal solution with the hike in petrol prices. But who is going to feed the horse with the present food crisis in the country?" Belonging to the President's bodyguard, the buggy was drawn by a sturdy chestnut colt called "Samrat." It took exactly 14 minutes to cover the distance one way from South Block to Mrs. Gandhi's residence.

A HUNDRED YEARS AGO NOVEMBER 6, 1923

In Australia

Melbourne, Nov. 1: There is a strike of 650 police in consequence of the refusal of the Commissioner to remove Supervisors, who are accused of spying. Serious rioting has taken place. Trains have been over turned. Shop windows have been smashed and many shops looted. The damage is estimated at over $50,000. Hitherto, there have been two deaths and 55 arrests. The loyal and special police, with blue jackets attacked the striking constables, many rioters were injured.

From Page One

PM lead Mizoram poll campaign on final day

The Prime Minister recalled that during one of his earlier visits to Mizoram, he had promised to work for transformation by transportation. "Since then, a revolution has happened across sectors due to the work of the BJP-led government," he said.

He cited the example of more than ₹8,500 crore invested in a broad-gauge railway project connecting Bairabi near the Assam-Mizoram boundary to Sairang, about 18 km from State capital Aizawl; the increase in the length of National highways in the northeast from 11,000 km in 2014 to 16,000 km in 2022-23, and ₹500 crore sanctioned for urban development under the Aizawl Smart City Project.

The Prime Minister said the NDA government had helped about 4.5 lakh people in Mizoram get free treatment across 100 hospitals under the Ayushman Bharat scheme and 1.7 lakh farmers received amount directly into their bank accounts under the PM Kisan Samman Nidhi Yojana.

"When infrastructure improves, it helps trade, talent, and tourism, brings investment, industry, and income growth, and creates opportunities for our young friends in Mizoram. The BJP is committed to creating a marvellous Mizoram. I am sure we will get your support and blessings to make it happen," the Prime Minister said.

RSS destroying culture: Kharge

The RSS is "hell-bent on destroying your culture, values, religion and the Mizo way of life. The Modi government wants to take your land and forests and gift that to their crony friends," Mr. Kharge said.

In Chhattisgarh, the last day of campaigning for 20 seats that include 12 in the tribal belt of Bastar, saw the Congress releasing its manifesto and Mr. Modi visiting various temples.

BJP president J.P. Nadda addressed a 'Vijay Sankalp' rally in the Masturi constituency, reiterating his party's pitch for a "double-engine" government. Union Minister Smriti Irani participated in a bike rally in Bastar, and was also seen preparing tea for party workers in Kondagaon, Bastar, as a last-minute outreach to the voters. Addressing a public meeting in the Konta Assembly constituency, Uttar Pradesh CM Yogi Adityanath alleged that the Congress had roped in Naxals to kill BJP worker Ratan Dubey. Meanwhile, leaders of the ruling Congress too held public meetings at different places across Chhattisgarh.

PMAY: govt. withholds ₹4,000 crore for A.P.

On August 7 and 8, Union Rural Development Secretary Shailesh Singh wrote to Chief Secretary K.S. Jawahar Reddy, noting that the "core features" of Centrally sponsored schemes, including PMAY-G, are "unalterable and funds from Government of India can flow only if the core features of the scheme are adhered to in entirety".

"While we do acknowledge the contribution of the State of Andhra Pradesh in providing State top-up and sand for construction, it is essential to acknowledge and preserve the uniformity of the PMAY-G by not altering the design of the scheme which has been approved by the Union Cabinet," Mr. Singh wrote on August 8.

PMAY-G provides ₹1.3 lakh for each unit constructed under the scheme, with a 60:40 split in funding from the Centre and State. Over and above this amount, A.P.'s Housing Secretary Ajay Jain says that the State provides a top-up of ₹70,000 per unit and also free sand for the construction. The State is chasing a target of building 1.79 lakh homes by a deadline of March 2024, when the scheme is expected to be completed nationally. The State had written to the Union government, proposing co-branding of the scheme, but its proposal was shot down.

Indian envoy asks Canada for evidence in Nijjar's killing

There 'is no specific or relevant information provided in this case for us to assist them in the investigation', Sanjay Kumar Verma says, adding that 'the investigation has already been tainted'

Press Trust of India
OTTAWA

Indian High Commissioner Sanjay Kumar Verma has asked Ottawa to provide evidence to back up its allegations. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

Canada's investigation into the murder of a Sikh extremist has been tainted by a high-level Canadian official's public statements, India's High Commissioner to Canada, Sanjay Kumar Verma, has said. He has asked Ottawa to provide evidence to back up its allegations.

In an interview with the *The Globe and Mail* newspaper, Mr. Verma on Friday said that there "is no specific or relevant information provided in this case for us to assist them in the investigation".

"Where is the evidence? Where is the conclusion of the investigation? I would go a step further and say now the investigation has already been tainted," Mr. Verma was quoted as saying by the newspaper.

"A direction has come from someone at a high level to say India or Indian agents are behind it," he said on Saturday, without naming anyone.

Ties between India and Canada came under severe strain following Canadian Prime Minister Justin Trudeau's allegations in September of the "potential" involvement of Indian agents in the killing of Khalistani separatist Hardeep Singh Nijjar in the Canadian town of Surrey in June. India designated Nijjar a terrorist in 2020. India rejected the allegations as "absurd" and "motivated". Days after Mr. Trudeau's allegations, India temporarily suspended the issuance of visas to Canadian citizens and asked Ottawa to downsize its diplomatic presence in India to ensure parity. Canada has since withdrawn 41 diplomats and their family members from India.

He said that India had made 26 requests to Ottawa over the past five or six years to extradite people, but Canada had not taken any action. He also spoke of security threats to him and other Indian diplomatic staff in Canada.

On Saturday, External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar had said there was room for diplomacy to address the row between India and Canada. He said both sides had been in touch and hoped that a way would be found to resolve the row.

SFJ founder asks Sikhs not to fly on Air India from Nov. 19

Asian News International
NEW DELHI

Designated terrorist Gurpatwant Singh Pannun, the founder of the banned Sikhs for Justice (SFJ), has released a new video asking Sikhs not to fly on Air India aircraft after November 19, as their lives could be "in danger". He said that Air India would not be allowed to operate from November 19.

Mr. Pannun said that Delhi's Indira Gandhi International Airport would remain shut on November 19 and that its name would be changed. He also referred to the final match of the Cricket World Cup scheduled for the day. "The name of this airport will be Shahid Beant Singh, Shahid Satwant Singh Khalistan airport, when Punjab will be liberated," he said.

This is not the first time the SFJ chief has issued a threat. In September, he urged Hindu-Canadians to leave Canada amid a diplomatic row between India and Canada over the killing of Khalistani terrorist Hardeep Singh Nijjar. Mr. Pannun, in a video that circulated on social media, had said pro-Khalistan Sikhs have consistently shown loyalty to Canada. He then went on to threaten Indo-Canadian Hindus, urging them to leave the country.

Following the spread of the hateful speech by Mr. Pannun, Hindu Forum Canada (HFC) lawyers had asked the Canadian Immigration Minister to ban Mr. Pannun's entry into Canadian territory. The HFC wrote to Minister of Immigration Mark Miller, stating that Mr. Pannun's comments have caused distress and trauma not only within the Hindu community but also among Canadian citizens at large.

Caste-based survey an eyewash, numbers were fudged: Shah

Amit Bhelari
PATNA

Amit Shah

Union Home Minister and BJP leader Amit Shah, on his first visit to Bihar after the release of the caste-based survey report, on Sunday came down heavily on Chief Minister Nitish Kumar and Rashtriya Janata Dal (RJD) chief Lalu Prasad, accusing the State government of engaging in the politics of minority appeasement.

"To confuse the people of Bihar, the alliance recently released the caste-based survey in which the population of Yadavs and Muslims has been increased and the population of EBCs (Extremely Backward Classes) has been decreased. Don't fall into their trap. This is an injustice towards the EBCs and backward people," Mr. Shah said at a rally in Muzaffarpur district.

Mr. Shah termed the caste-based survey an eyewash. He alleged that under the pressure of Mr. Prasad, the population of EBCs was undercounted, whereas the number of Yadavs and Muslims in the State had been inflated.

He dared Mr. Prasad to name the prime ministerial candidate for the INDIA bloc from the Extremely Backward Classes as they formed the largest group as per the survey.

Mr. Shah said Mr. Kumar had cheated the mandate of the people of Bihar by switching sides.

"You all voted against jungle raj of Lalu Prasad, but Nitish Kumar has once again forced the State to face goonda raj and jungle raj. They are engaged in Muslim appeasement and if they are not stopped then Seemanchal region will land in trouble," he said.

He said Mr. Kumar had joined hands with people involved in "corruption, scams and chargesheeted to enjoy power".

Bihar Deputy Chief Minister Tejashwi Yadav termed Mr. Shah's speech "nonsense", adding that if there was any fault in the survey then the Centre should conduct one on its own.

Bhutan King to meet PM today; Assam border project on agenda

Suhasini Haidar
NEW DELHI

Close bonds: External Affairs Minister S Jaishankar with Bhutan King Jigme Khesar Namgyal Wangchuk in New Delhi on Sunday. ANI

Bhutan's fourth King Jigme Khesar Namgyel Wangchuck landed in Delhi on Sunday ahead of talks with Prime Minister Narendra Modi on Monday, a fortnight after Bhutan and China signed an agreement on the border delimitation process in Beijing. While the border talks will receive the most interest in New Delhi, given India's concerns over Doklam, the King's visit is understood to be prompted by an ambitious project Bhutan plans on the border with Assam, in Gelephu. In Delhi, the Bhutanese King was received at the airport by External Affairs Minister S. Jaishankar. National Security Adviser Ajit Doval called on him at the hotel.

"The visit will further strengthen close bonds of friendship and cooperation with a valued partner," said Ministry of External Affairs spokesperson Arindam Bagchi, without adding any details of issues expected to be raised during the talks.

The Bhutanese King flew to Delhi from Guwahati, which was the first ever official visit by a Bhutanese monarch to Assam. He discussed connectivity and infrastructure initiatives with Chief Minister Himanta Biswa Sarma, including plans for the first India-Bhutan rail link, a 57-km line connecting Kokrajhar and Gelephu, where Bhutan plans to build an international airport. He will fly to Mumbai later this week, and is expected to meet with various business and industry leaders to speak about collaborations and investment in the Gelephu project, also called the Sarpang district Special Economic Zone.

On December 17, Bhutan's National Day, the King is expected to formally announce the project, and his visit to India before that is a significant indicator of Bhutan's hopes for India's involvement in the regional hub project. Sources said the Sarpang SEZ would retain uniquely Bhutanese characteristics, including cultural and spiritual centres and environmentally sustainable businesses, that also incorporate high-technology innovations, and would seek to create jobs for Bhutanese youth who are moving abroad due to lack of opportunities within the country. In July, Foreign Secretary Vinay Kwatra travelled to Gelephu to hold talks, and received a full briefing on the project.

'Special friend'

"The first leader that His Majesty the King discussed the Gelephu project with was Prime Minister Narendra Modi," Bhutan's Prime Minister Lotay Tshering told *The Hindu* in an interview last month about the plan to build Gelephu as a "Gateway City". "After the meeting between the two leaders, we understand India will give Bhutan all support that will be required," Dr. Tshering added. This is King Jigme Khesar's second trip to India this year, after his visit in April, which had also closely followed the announcement of progress in Bhutan-China talks on resolving their border issue. The talks set off alarm bells in Delhi over the prospect of India's "special" friend and neighbour, which doesn't at present have diplomatic ties with China, becoming more closely involved in trade and tourism with Beijing, while also sealing a border deal that could bring the Chinese PLA into closer range of the Indian border.

Speaking about his visit to Beijing where he had held the 25th round of border talks, Bhutanese Foreign Minister Tandi Dorji told journalists in Thimphu last week that the pace of border resolution with Beijing had been accelerated in the past few years.

New Delhi has not commented directly on the talks, holding only that India and Bhutan are in close touch on all issues, and India follows closely all developments with a bearing on national security, and the second royal visit from Bhutan indicates it is mindful of those sensitivities, even as its King seeks new avenues for cooperation in the northeast.

Ahead of FATF review, Centre takes measures to implement suggestions

Devesh K. Pandey
NEW DELHI

Ahead of India's mutual evaluations by the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Union government has taken several measures to implement the intergovernmental body's recommendations, made following the 2010 review, which includes notification of practising chartered accountants, company secretaries, and cost and management accountants as reporting entities.

The FATF carries out the review to determine whether its recommended measures to curb money laundering and terror financing have been taken by the member country and if they are effective. India's on-site assessment is expected to be carried out in November.

"On May 3 this year, the Finance Ministry had issued a notification designating the three categories of finance professionals as 'persons carrying on a designated business or profession' under the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA). The law provides that a 'reporting entity' means a banking company, financial institution, intermediary, or a person carrying on a designated business or profession," Ashish Chandra Singh, former Deputy Legal Advisor with the Enforcement Directorate (ED) and a practising lawyer, said.

Through another notification on May 9 the government brought five activities under the same preview. They included acting as a formation agent of companies and limited liability partnerships (LLP); and acting as (or arranging for another person to act as) a director or secretary of a company, a partner of a firm, or a similar position in relation to other companies and LLPs.

Under the PMLA, a reporting entity has to maintain a record of all transactions (for five years), and documents evidencing the identity of its clients and beneficial owners, account files and business correspondence with them, and furnish information as and when sought by the designated authority.

Section 12AA of the Act lays down the additional responsibilities of a reporting entity. Prior to the commencement of each specified transaction, it has to verify the identity of its clients; examine the ownership and financial position, including sources of funds of the client; and record the purpose behind the specified transaction and the intended nature of relationship between the transacting parties. If the client does not fulfil the conditions, the reporting entity must disallow the specified transaction. If the transaction is suspicious or likely to involve proceeds of crime, the entity has to increase the future monitoring of the business relationship with the client, including greater scrutiny of transactions. The information gathered while applying these enhanced due diligence measures has also to be maintained for five years.

BJP expels Rajasthan leader for his controversial remarks

The Hindu Bureau
CHANDIGARH

Sandeep Dayma was expelled from BJP for making a statement against the party's ideology

The BJP on Sunday expelled its Rajasthan leader Sandeep Dayma, who was at the centre of a controversy for making a hate remark.

Mr. Dayma was expelled for making a statement against the party's ideology, said BJP disciplinary committee head Onkar Singh Lakhawat.

The decision came after senior BJP leader and former Punjab Chief Minister Amarinder Singh and other party members had demanded strict action against Mr. Dayma for his hate remarks about "mosques and gurdwaras".

On Sunday, BJP members, led by State Mahila Morcha president Jai Inder Kaur, submitted a complaint at the Sector 39 police station in Chandigarh against Mr. Dayma demanding action against him. In their complaint, the BJP members said Mr. Dayma's remarks had created an atmosphere of insecurity and hurt the religious sentiments of people.

On Saturday, Capt. Amarinder Singh said, "People like Dayma, who speak mindlessly and make vicious statements, should have no place in a party like the BJP." Not only Mr. Dayma should be expelled from the party, there must be legal action also, he said.

Recently, Mr. Dayma, during an election rally in the presence of Uttar Pradesh Chief Minister Yogi Adityanath in Rajasthan's Tijara Assembly constituency, said that "if the BJP comes to power, mosques and gurdwaras would be uprooted." This remark led to criticism, following which Mr. Dayma tendered an apology. There was a furore even after his apology where he said that during the rally what he wanted to say was that 'masjid (mosques)-madrasas' would be uprooted, but somehow, he stated gurdwara also.

Shiromani Akali Dal president Sukhbir Badal, rejecting the apology, stated on X that Mr. Dayma seems to suffer from an 'arrogant and perverted mindset'.

Jarange-Patil to resume Maharashtra tour soon

The Hindu Bureau
PUNE

Keeping up the pressure over the Maratha reservation issue, quota activist Manoj Jarange-Patil on Sunday said he would soon resume his Maharashtra tour. Villages will begin holding 'chain fasts' from December 1 until the Maratha community is granted reservation, he added. He said that the community was looking with hope towards securing a quota by December 24.

Speaking in Sambhajinagar, he said: "The Marathas have become aware of their rights now... The Marathas are realising the need to stand up for their rights and those of their children."

ASSEMBLY POLLS 2023

10,585 votes cast via home voting, postal ballots

Till Saturday, a total of 10,585 senior citizens, people with disabilities and government officials have exercised their franchise for the November 7 Mizoram election through home voting and postal ballots, an official said. While 2,059 senior citizens (aged 80 and above) and people with disabilities exercised their franchise through home voting, 8,526 government officials, including security and polling personnel, voted through postal ballots, additional chief electoral officer H. Lianzela said on Sunday.

Of the 11 districts, Aizawl topped the list in home and postal voting with 2,534 people exercising their franchise, he said.

More than 8.57 lakh voters, including 4,39,026 women, will decide the fate of 174 candidates in the polls, the official said.

Polling will be held in Mizoram on Tuesday for the remaining voters.

BJP replaces two candidates in Rajasthan

The BJP on Sunday replaced its candidates in two seats for the Rajasthan Assembly election, while releasing its fifth list comprising 15 candidates. The party dropped Mavli MLA Dharmnarayan Joshi and gave ticket to K.G. Paliwal for the seat. The party changed the candidates for the Kolayat and Baran-Atru seats, where it had earlier fielded Poonam Kanwar Bhati and Sarika Chaudhary, respectively.

Ms. Bhati, the daughter-in-law of former Minister Devi Singh Bhati, has been replaced with her son Anshuman Singh Bhati in Kolayat apparently on the demand of Mr. Bhati. For the Baran-Atru seat reserved for the Scheduled Castes, Ms. Chaudhary has been replaced with Radheshyam Bairwa.

The party is yet to finalise candidates for the Barmer, Pachpadra and Bari seats.

"During the pandemic, lockdown was not implemented at the right time and a 10-day period was given to ensure our government in M.P. falls

JAIRAM RAMESH
Congress leader

SP, BSP and AAP are *chunavi chidiya*: Rajnath

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh on Sunday described parties like the Samajwadi Party (SP), the Bahujan Samajwadi Party (BSP) and the Aam Aadmi Party (AAP) as "electoral birds" (*chunavi chidiya*), saying that they come during the elections and return to New Delhi and Uttar Pradesh at the end of the elections.

"The Congress government in Chhattisgarh committed scams in liquor, rice, cow dung, teachers' transfer and Public Service Commission [hires]

J.P. NADDA
BJP president

Promises aplenty: Bhupesh Baghel releases the party's manifesto for the Assembly election during a press conference in Raipur. PTI

Cong. manifesto promises caste census in Chhattisgarh

Shubhomoy Sikdar
RAIPUR

The ruling Congress on Sunday launched its manifesto for the Chhattisgarh Assembly election, promising loan waivers for farmers; ₹3,200 a quintal for paddy; and subsidised cooking gas cylinders for women.

Free education from kindergarten to postgraduation in government colleges; 200 units of electricity free; 17.5 lakh houses for the rural poor; ₹6,000 for a bag of *tendu* leaves; and a caste census have also been promised in the "*Bharose ka Ghosna Patra* (manifesto of trust) 2023-28 launched on the last day of campaigning for the first phase of the polls.

The document was unveiled at six places with Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel releasing it in Rajnandgaon and the party's Chhattisgarh in-charge, Kumari Selja, in Raipur.

The party had made 17 promises at various stages of the campaign earlier, while the BJP released its manifesto two days ago. Some of the Congress promises have been revised upwards from the announcements made earlier. While it had earlier said that it would give ₹3,000 a quintal of paddy procured from farmers, the party kept the rate at ₹3,200 per quintal in the formal manifesto, taking it ahead of the BJP, which promises to pay ₹3,100.

In its manifesto, the party has announced that the landless will receive ₹10,000 a year, up from the ₹7,000 they are getting under the Rajiv Gandhi Landless Agricultural Labourer Justice Scheme.

During the launch, Mr. Baghel said that a Mahtari Nyay Yojana would be launched for women, under which a subsidy of ₹500 per cooking gas cylinder would be given.

Congress denies ticket to Minister Joshi in Rajasthan

The Hindu Bureau
JAIPUR

The Congress has dropped senior Rajasthan Minister Mahesh Joshi, considered a loyalist of Chief Minister Ashok Gehlot, in its sixth list of 23 candidates for the Assembly election released late on Saturday night. Mr. Joshi was among those accused of indiscipline with the boycott of a Congress Legislature Party (CLP) meeting convened for selecting a new Chief Minister in Jaipur last year.

It has fielded its Jaipur city unit president R.R. Tiwari for the Hawa Mahal seat instead.

Late on Sunday night, the Congress announced its seventh and final list comprising 21 candidates, in which it retained Parliamentary Affairs Minister Shanti Dhariwal in his Kota North seat.

FOR FULL COVERAGE OF ASSEMBLY POLLS
Please scan the QR code or visit
https://newsth.live/elections

For Chhattisgarh BJP, the elephant in the room is demand for caste census

Congress leaders stress caste census on the campaign trail and ask why the BJP is opposed to it, while the leaders of the saffron party are silent, but the workers discuss it among themselves; both parties are, however, courting OBC voters in the 20 constituencies going to the polls tomorrow

IN FOCUS

Abhinay Lakshman
RAJNANDGAON/DANTEWADA

Though 12 of the 20 constituencies going to the polls in Chhattisgarh on Tuesday are reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, the ruling Congress and the Opposition Bharatiya Janata Party are courting Other Backward Class voters, who form a significant portion of the population in areas such as Rajnandgaon, Kabeerdham, Kanker district, Jagdalpur, Dantewada, and Bastar. This is despite the fact that the Adivasis make up more than half the population in these constituencies.

While the Congress is banking on the promise of a caste census, farm loan waivers, and community centres for each community, the BJP is relying on OBC representation in the Narendra Modi Cabinet, the number of Chief Ministers from the party who belong to the community, and the fact that Prime Minister Narendra Modi hails from the community. But even BJP campaign workers at the district and constituency levels are unable to escape conversations around a caste census, with some even admitting, though at a personal level, that such an enumeration should be held and that the party leadership's silence is not helping.

About 150 km west of Raipur, in the lanes of Mohla block, a van stood outside a small two-room Congress office. The building was covered with posters of the party's candidate for the Mohla-Manpur Assembly constituency, Indrashah Mandavi. Reserved for the Scheduled Tribes, the constituency was until recently part of Rajnandgaon district. Eager party workers waited to welcome the party's State in-charge, Chandan Yadav, for a campaign meeting.

In the meeting though, what the workers were asked to do was primarily reach out to the Backward Classes. "Will our Sahu brothers and sisters vote for us based on loan waiver and MSP [minimum support price] increase? Check if all different communities are happy with the community centres opened for them," Mr. Yadav tells the workers, asking them to focus on the households in their respective villages that had not voted for the party in 2018 in a bid to "turn" them.

Matter of strategy: Smriti Irani during a roadshow at Keskal in Kondagaon district on Sunday, the last day for campaigning for 20 constituencies going to the polls on Tuesday. PTI

Throughout the campaign in Chhattisgarh, all senior Congress leaders – from party president Mallikarjun Kharge and Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel to Rahul Gandhi and Priyanka Gandhi Vadra – have stressed caste census on the campaign trail, asking why the BJP was opposed to it.

But even as Home Minister Amit Shah broke his party's silence on the caste census in a measured remark saying it was not particularly opposed to the idea, the saffron party's workers at the ground level have been conspicuously avoiding bringing this subject up with voters, though they are unable to resist talking about it among themselves.

At a swanky campaign office in the heart of the Dantewada Assembly constituency, also reserved for the STs, the BJP's district in-charge, G.D. Bairagi, sits with tea after a long day in the field with party candidate Chaitram Atami.

Asked what the party's strategy with OBC voters is, Mr. Bairagi said, "There is a significant OBC population here in Dantewada and the PM and his Cabinet are the biggest signs of what the BJP has done for the community."

Another BJP leader from Jharkhand, who was helping out with the campaign said, "The Congress keeps talking about caste census so why did it not release the caste census data when it was in power?"

Mr. Bairagi, himself from an OBC community, however interjected, "Look, I have been a teacher all my life and I know the importance of counting population. Even we would be better off in the campaign if we knew the exact number of people from each community. This is, of course, my personal opinion," as party workers nodded in agreement. This opinion was echoed by workers at the village and block levels in other constituencies too.

Of the 20 constituencies, the Congress represents 19 now. The Dantewada and Rajnandgaon constituencies had voted for the BJP's Bhima Mandavi and former Chief Minister M. Raman Singh, respectively, in 2018, but in the byelection that followed Mr. Mandavi's murder in 2019, Devti Karma of the Congress won the seat, leaving Mr. Singh as the only BJP MLA fighting to keep his place in this region.

'BJP is going to the polls under a collective leadership in all States'

Union Minister denies that it is a strategy to cut Shivraj Singh Chouhan down to size; one of the seven BJP MPs fielded by the BJP in Madhya Pradesh, he says it's the Cong. that is facing rebellion

INTERVIEW

Prahlad Patel

Nistula Hebbar

Union Minister Prahlad Patel is one of the seven BJP MPs (including three Union Ministers) in the fray in the Madhya Pradesh Assembly election. He speaks on the campaign thus far, and issues that are cropping up.

There is a widespread perception that the BJP is hopelessly mired by an anti-incumbency current after 18 years in power in the State, and the Congress benefits from a sympathy factor after its 15-month government was pulled down in the State.

That is a perception that the Congress has tried to spread, while stating that they were so organised that they would release their first list of candidates six months in advance. Now see what has happened – it is the BJP that got its list out three months earlier, while the fight between Digvijaya Singh and Kamal Nath came out in the open after the Congress's first list. They spoke of tearing off Digvijaya Singh and his son's (Jaivardhan Singh) clothes after their first list. In the second list of the BJP, when the seven MPs' candidature was announced, they raised the question of who will be Chief Minister, while they themselves are facing huge rebellion in the ranks.

But this can't just be about Congress propaganda, surveys have also reflected it.

What the surveys haven't been able to capture is that the BJP in Madhya Pradesh will be voted back on the strength of its programmes for women, for *Gareeb Kalyan* (welfare of the poor) and the third big factor in the State, tribal people and their welfare. The BJP government has done a lot of work with regard to PESA (Panchayat Extension to Scheduled Areas Act), of setting up hostels and educational institutions in these areas. I can say from what I have seen, and by virtue of having been involved in that poll, that the BJP's victory will be like the one in 2003.

What about the allegations that the BJP, by asking seven MPs and party national general secretary Kailash Vijayvargiya to contest, has tried to cut Chief Minister Shivraj Singh Chouhan down to size?

Four of us – Shivraj Chouhan, Kailash Vijayvargiya and Narendra Singh Tomar and I – have been a team since 1986, are contemporaries without any rivalry between us. While I will be fighting Assembly polls for the first time, others have been Ministers under Shivraj Chouhan in the State. Even now, I have no hesitation in claiming that Shivraj [Chouhan] is the most popular among us. The BJP has been operating under the idea of collective leadership in all the five States going to the polls; therefore, it is not that Madhya Pradesh has been singled out.

It is being said that among the seven MPs and one national general secretary fielded by the BJP, only you and Kailash Vijayvargiya have been able to campaign outside their constituencies. So has the strategy of fielding MPs not worked?

As the polls draw nearer, I expect [Union Agriculture Minister] Narendra Singh Tomar and [Minister of State for Steel] Faggan Singh Kulaste to campaign across constituencies from where they contesting.

Are you a contender for the Chief Minister's post this time around?

This is a propaganda spread by the Congress, it is not how the BJP operates. I have been given a task by the party, and all of us seven MPs are doing only that.

'Show the money': Mizoram Congress pokes MNF scheme

Rahul Karmakar
AIZAWL

Lalsawta

Assembly elections in Mizoram have been the blandest in India since 2008 when the Church-backed Mizoram People's Forum came up with its "model code of conduct" to prevent violence and inducements experienced during the 2003 election.

The code has been punctured during the run-up to the 2023 election by a war of words, though genteel, over local beneficiary schemes of the past, present, and future.

Apart from "Zo unification" envisaging a greater homeland for the ethnic groups within the Zo family, the ruling Mizo National Front (MNF) has been harping about the success of its Socio-Economic Development Policy (SEDP). The scheme offers financial support of up to ₹3 lakh to beneficiaries for taking up a trade of their preference.

"Some 60,000 families were provided with assistance of ₹50,000 each and another 60,000 were given ₹25,000 each in the second phase. The third phase was suspended temporarily as its initiation coincided with the announcement of the polls," MNF veteran and Mizoram's Deputy Chief Minister Tawnluia said.

Criticism mounts

State Congress president Lalsawta trashed the MNF claim. "They gave only ₹25,000 and only a few party workers got the money, not the farmers and skilled workers who needed it," he said.

The SEDP, he said, was an "inflated version" of the New Land Use Policy (NLUP), which was launched in January 2011 by the Congress government headed by Lal Thanhawla to offer financial assistance of ₹1 lakh each to 1.2-lakh families identified by the agriculture and allied departments.

The BJP, hoping to be in the Mizoram government for the first time, has been critical of the SEDP. It offered the LOTUS, expanding to Livelihood Opportunity Transformation and Upliftment Scheme, to "bail out" the beneficiaries hit hard by the "fallacies and corruption surrounding SEDP".

INBRIEF

Parties oppose J&K L-G move to bar staff from holding stir

There is growing opposition from the regional political parties of Jammu & Kashmir to the Lieutenant-Governor (L-G) administration's move to bar government employees from participating in or organising protests to press for their demands in the Union Territory. National Conference president Farooq Abdullah said the government order was "aimed at intimidation". "Legitimate dissent is a distinguishable feature of any democracy. The fundamental aspect is the right conferred upon all people in a democracy," he said. Former J&K Chief Minister and People's Democratic Party (PDP) president Mehbooba Mufti said the order reeked of a dictatorial mindset.

In a first, GPS tracker anklet used on J&K terror accused

Ghulam Mohammad Bhat, an accused in a terror-related case, has become the first case in Jammu and Kashmir to be tagged physically with a Global Positioning System (GPS) tracker anklet to monitor his movement. Heeding to the merits put forth by the prosecution, the Special NIA Court in Jammu "passed an order directing the Jammu and Kashmir police to affix a GPS tracker anklet on Mr. Bhat". The court, as part of bail conditions, directed the "strict monitoring of Bhat" and allowed the use of a tracker. Director-General of Police R.R. Swain has been advocating the "use of modern technology tools to monitor the security situation" in Jammu and Kashmir.

Mahadev app among 22 online betting platforms banned

The ED is probing an allegation that the promoters of the Mahadev app had facilitated a ₹508-crore payment to Chhattisgarh CM Baghel

The Hindu Bureau
NEW DELHI/RAIPUR

The ED conducted searches on the premises of Mahadev Book Online betting app in Chhattisgarh on November 3. ANI

The Ministry of Electronics and Information Technology (MeitY) on Sunday said it had issued blocking orders against 22 "illegal betting apps and websites", including Mahadev Book Online and Reddyannaprestopro, at the Enforcement Directorate's (ED) request.

"The action follows investigations conducted by the ED against [an] illegal betting app syndicate and subsequent raids on Mahadev Book in Chhattisgarh, revealing the app's unlawful operations," the Union government said.

Arrested persons

Bhim Singh Yadav, a constable in the Chhattisgarh Police, and one Asim Das are currently in custody. They have been arrested under Section 19 of the Prevention of Money Laundering Act (PMLA).

Minister of State for Electronics and IT Rajeev Chandrasekhar had launched a broadside against the Chhattisgarh government, chiding it for not acting on the app. "The Chhattisgarh government had all the power to recommend shutting down of [the] website/app," Mr. Chandrasekhar said in a press statement. "However, they did not do so."

New video

On Sunday, the Opposition BJP in Chhattisgarh shared a video in which an individual was seen making new claims in connection with the Mahadev app case.

The video surfaced two days ahead of the first phase of the Chhattisgarh Assembly election.

The ED had said it was probing an alleged payment of about ₹508 crore by the Mahadev betting app promoters to Chief Minister Bhupesh Baghel.

While the party shared the video on its X handle, its central media convener, Siddharthnath Singh, issued a statement referring to the clip, and said the "truth of the Mahadev app syndicate" had come to light. "The people of Chhattisgarh were looted by the head of the government through betting business. The public is going to uproot such a government on December 3. If there is even a little morality left, then Bhupesh Baghel should quit," it read.

No jurisdiction on plea by deceased U.P. official's wife: Lokpal

Vijaita Singh
NEW DELHI

The Lokpal of India has ruled that it does not have the jurisdiction to entertain a plea filed by the wife of a government official in Uttar Pradesh who died by suicide after allegedly being pressured by his superiors to sign the physical completion certificates for Union government projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme.

The Lokpal said in an order that the complaint directed against the Principal Secretary, Tourism and Culture, and Director-General, Tourism, Uttar Pradesh would fall within the ambit and scope of criminal law and procedure and it would "have no jurisdiction to entertain this plea".

It, however, forwarded the complaint to the Union Tourism Secretary "to look into the matter at their end". The Principal Secretary could not be reached for comments.

The complainant said her late husband was serving in the Tourism Department of Uttar Pradesh, till his death by suicide in February 2023.

"The allegation levelled by the complainant is that her husband was pressured by his superior, the public servant concerned, to sign the physical completion certificates for the schemes of Central government projects under the Swadesh Darshan Scheme though the said projects were not complete in all respects. The projects in which completion certificates were forcefully signed under pressure are listed in the complaint," the September 27 order said.

She stated that the projects were not complete and did not meet the required standards. "Despite this fact, the public servant concerned exerted undue pressure on her husband to sign the completion certificates. Feeling humiliated, harassed, targeted, trapped, and threatened by the public servant, her husband took his own life," the order said.

The complainant demanded an investigation into eight government schemes and grants to the Uttar Pradesh's Tourism department in order to unearth alleged wrongdoings.

The Swadesh Darshan Scheme was launched in 2014-15 for the integrated development of theme-based tourist circuits. Under the scheme, the Ministry of Tourism provides financial assistance to State governments for development of tourism infrastructure in the country.

Leave benefits for women in armed forces made uniform

Press Trust of India
NEW DELHI

Defence Minister Rajnath Singh has approved a proposal to grant maternity, childcare and child adoption leave to women soldiers, sailors and air warriors on a par with the officers.

The Defence Ministry on Sunday said the decision was in line with Mr. Singh's vision of "inclusive participation" of all women in the armed forces, irrespective of their ranks.

It said the measure would improve the work conditions for women in the military as it would help them balance their professional and family lives in a better manner.

At present, women officers get maternity leave of 180 days with full pay for each child, subject to a maximum of two children. Childcare leave of 360 days is granted in total service career (subject to the child being less than 18 years of age) to women officers. Child adoption leave of 180 days is granted after the date of the valid adoption of a child below one year of age, officials said.

"The extension of leave rules will go a long way in dealing with women-specific family and social issues relevant to the armed forces," the Ministry said.

In Malerkotla, a Begum's last wish remains unfulfilled

Vikas Vasudeva
CHANDIGARH

It was the wish of Begum Munawwar-ul-Nisa that Mubarak Manzil would be restored to its former glory. SPECIAL ARRANGEMENT

The ruins of the 19th century palace, Mubarak Manzil, in Malerkotla town of Punjab indicate the State's neglect and apathy towards its heritage. The palace not only has architectural value but is also closely associated with the sentiments of Sikhs and Muslims.

Last week, the 103-year-old Begum Munawwar-ul-Nisa, wife of Malerkotla's last ruler Nawab Iftikhar Ali Khan, passed away without witnessing the palace, displaying European architectural influences, being restored to its pristine glory.

In 2021, the then Congress government had approved the acquisition and conservation of the palace, which gave a ray of hope that it would get a new lease of life. The restoration work is, however, yet to take off.

The State government decided to acquire the palace after Begum Nisa wrote to the government stating that the 150-year-old palace was an invaluable heritage property and it was her last wish to see it restored in its original shape.

"Begum *Sahiba* was quite optimistic that she would be able to see the palace in its old grandeur, it was her last wish, but it couldn't happen. She died last week with her desire unfulfilled," Mohammad Mehmood, who was associated as private secretary of the Begum for the past four decades, told *The Hindu*.

"The palace is in ruins for want of upkeep, which was the result of family dispute and financial constraints. After the dispute was resolved, Begum Nisa urged the State government to take over the palace and conserve it. She kept one room on the first floor for herself and the rest, around 29 rooms, were handed over to the government. We all, including the Begum, were hopeful that the government authorities would restore it quickly. But it's been over two years yet no restoration work has started. A team of experts visited the palace in 2022, but since then we have heard nothing," he said.

Malerkotla's significance in Sikh history has been immense as people, especially Sikhs, revered Sher Mohammed Khan, former Nawab of Malerkotla, who raised his voice of protest against the execution (bricking alive) of the sons of Guru Gobind Singh – Sahibzada Zorawar Singh (nine) and Sahibzada Fateh Singh (seven) by Wazir Khan, the then Governor of Sirhind region, in 1705. According to local legend, Guru Gobind Singh, the 10th Sikh Guru, blessed Nawab Sher Mohammed Khan and the people of Malerkotla that the town would live in peace.

Pointing out that Sikhs have the utmost regard for the Malerkotla royal family, Gurcharan Singh Grewal, general secretary of the Shiromani Gurdwara Parbandhak Committee (SGPC), the body responsible for the management of gurdwaras, said the government should speed up its efforts to restore the palace. "The sentiments of Muslims and Sikhs are attached to Malerkotla for obvious reasons. We want that the government should take immediate steps to conserve this heritage palace," he said.

As the demand for the palace's conservation has again caught the limelight, Malerkotla's Deputy Commissioner, Palavi, said that keeping in view the sentiments of people, necessary steps for early restoration of the palace would be taken up.

Rahul heads to Kedarnath for a 'personal spiritual journey'

Ishita Mishra
NEW DELHI

Temple run: Rahul Gandhi attends evening aarti at Kedarnath temple in Rudraprayag district on Sunday. PTI

As campaign fever peaks ahead of the Assembly elections in five States, former Congress chief Rahul Gandhi landed at Kedarnath in Uttarakhand on Sunday afternoon for a three-day visit to the Shiva temple there.

Though the Congress said it was Mr. Gandhi's "very personal" spiritual journey, the BJP said it was an attempt to copy Prime Minister Narendra Modi who also visited Kedarnath ahead of the 2019 Lok Sabha election.

Mr. Gandhi is expected to perform *Rudrabhishek puja* on Monday. He participated in the evening *aarti* at Kedarnath on Sunday, and performed '*chai seva*' by offering tea to pilgrims. The Uttarakhand State Congress Committee asked its workers not to gather at Kedarnath and disturb Mr. Gandhi as he was on a spiritual journey.

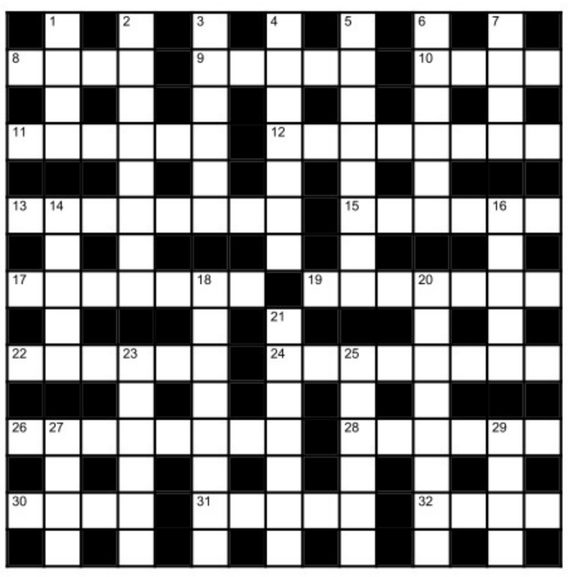
In a post on X, the BJP said that no matter how hard Mr. Gandhi tried, people would always remember the "anti-*Sanatana*" sentiments of the Congress party. The BJP also shared a video showing people chanting "Modi, Modi" as the Prime Minister walked towards the temple premises. BJP spokesperson Manvir Chauhan said the Congress leader would not fool voters as they knew the truth. "Rahul Gandhi is welcome in Uttarakhand but his Hindutva and copying Mr. Modi is not even liked by many in Congress too as it's an anti-Hindu party," he said.

TH CROSSWORD + 14013

(set by Incognito)

To solve this puzzle online, get across to our crossword site. @ *https://qrgo.page.link/jjpTn*

SCAN TO PLAY



Across

8 Animal captured by millionaire (4)
9 Pokes around wheel part (5)
10 Initially, her love note followed by a kiss resulted in deception (4)
11 Fantastic UN girl's enticing (6)
12 Tip to tip width of aircraft obtained by parking inside new awnings (8)
13 I left material to cover top of night-stand on mother's side (8)
15 After midnight, excited moles create clay creatures (6)
17 At first, werewolves consume that lady and survive (7)
19 Scheme in favour of a type of aircraft engine consuming carbon (7)
22 Setter's operation in-charge is short sighted (6)
24 A rag is twisted twice to produce jelly-like substance (4-4)
26 Winter precipitation starting to shower now... Before autumn! (8)
28 Pressed one and drone flew (6)
30 Still have four left after removing first and last letters from this number (4)
31 Wrong! Wrong! Cultivated! (5)
32 Get rid of bag (4)

Down

1 Officer releases tenant's place (4)
2 Indian police department: "Ten injured in event" (8)
3 Bad sign contains separate circles in equiangular polygon (6)
4 Republican Oscar's fine in crash site (7)
5 Green tea prepared for adolescent person (8)
6 Tool possessed by Ranchi's elite (6)
7 Space agency located in Salinas Airport (4)
14 Give up ale in leap year resolution, resulting in mockery (5)
16 A little time for tea or coffee? (5)
18 Trade old coins (8)
20 Envy Seoul jay's flying (8)
21 Boy everyone loves gets new mushroom (7)
23 Prisoner of war gets red, rejected cosmetic (6)
25 Extraterrestrial beings a fib? No! Start to search... (6)
27 Brad's unguis (4)
29 Engrave part of banquet chair (4)

SUDOKU

8		2	7					6
	6							
	1			2	3		8	
4		8					5	
3				5				1
	9					8		3
	8		9	6			7	
							1	
9					1	2		5

No.SS5970 Distribution: www.knightfeatures.com

DIFFICULTY RATING: ★★★★★

Solution to previous puzzle

O		C		A		A		B		B		C		A
P	L	A	Y	P	E	N		I	D	A	H	O	A	N
O		N		S		A		N		C		M		O
R	E	A	R	E	N	D		L	I	K	E	M	A	D
T		D				E		I		S		E		Y
O	R	A	N	G	E	M	E	N		H	E	R	O	N
				A				E		E		C		E
B	E	E	T	L	E	D		R	E	E	F	E	R	S
A		R		L		E				S				
N	A	U	R	U		C	H	A	C	H	A	C	H	A
J		P		P		A		C				U		P
O	C	T	O	P	O	D		C	A	L	I	B	R	E
I		I		O		E		O		E		O		M
S	T	O	L	L	E	N		R	A	G	T	I	M	E
T		N		L		T		D		O		D		N

Solution to yesterday's Sudoku

5	2	8	6	7	1	9	3	4
9	4	1	3	8	5	6	2	7
3	6	7	2	4	9	5	1	8
4	1	6	9	5	2	7	8	3
2	9	3	7	6	8	4	5	1
7	8	5	4	1	3	2	9	6
1	3	4	5	2	7	8	6	9
8	7	2	1	9	6	3	4	5
6	5	9	8	3	4	1	7	2

FAITH

Significance of Srirangam

Of the 108 Srivaishnava divyadesa kshetras, eight are swayamvyaktha kshetras. That is, God manifested Himself at His desire. Saligramam, Naimisaranyam, Badrikasramam and Pushkar are in the north, and Srirangam, Srimushnam, Thiruvenkatam, and Vanamamalai are in the south.

Srirangam is the first among all the kshetras. (*Aaadhyam Proktham Swayam Vyaktham*).

Sri Parasara Badri Bhattar swamy said in a discourse that Srirangam is praised by the Vedas, Azhwars and Acharyas (*Maraiyaya Naal Vedathin marai Porul*). Lord Ranganatha is called Veda Swarupi.

The Pranavakara Vimana stands as a symbol to explain the meaning of Pranava (the syllable Om). Lord Rama, with His divine consort Sri Sita, worshipped Sri Ranganatha and is called Peria Perumal. This is quoted in Sri Ramayana – *Saha Patnya Visalakshyaa Narayanam Upagamath*.

Sage Narada had narrated Sri Ranga Brahma Vidhya to Prahlada. Srirangam is the divine body of the Lord in which the Pranava Vimanam is the head, the two Cauvery rivers are hands, the other eight holy waters are legs, and the sacred pond Chandra Pushkarini is His heart, the two letters 'Rangam' is the life – air (prana).

MOSCOW

Russia test-fires nuclear-capable ballistic missile from submarine

AP

Russia said on Sunday it had successfully test-launched an intercontinental ballistic missile capable of carrying nuclear warheads from one of its submarines. The launch of the "Bulava" missile comes as Russia ramps up nuclear rhetoric since revoking its ratification of a key nuclear test ban treaty. AFP

MOSCOW

Ukraine missile strike on Crimean shipyard damages Russian ship

AP

The Russian military said a Ukrainian missile strike on a shipyard in annexed Crimea had damaged a Russian ship. The Russian Defence Ministry said on Saturday that Ukrainian forces fired cruise missiles at the Zaliv shipyard in Kerch, a city in the east of the Crimean Peninsula. Two of them damaged a vessel, the Ministry said. AP

KABUL

Poppy growth has fallen by 95% in Afghanistan since Taliban ban: UN

AP

Poppy cultivation and opium production have plunged 95% in Afghanistan since Taliban authorities banned the crop, according to a UN report published on Sunday. The report by the United Nations Office on Drugs and Crime (UNODC) found that poppy cultivation has collapsed from 2,33,000 hectares in 2022 to 10,800 in 2023. AFP

DHAKA

Bangladesh has arrested 8,000 Opposition activists, says report

AFP

Bangladesh police have arrested nearly 8,000 Opposition figures in a nationwide crackdown since officers broke up a major rally in the capital a week ago, a report in the country's most-respected newspaper *Prothom Alo* said on Sunday. The sweeping wave of detentions comes ahead of a general election due in January. AFP

Israel Minister rebuked for Gaza nuclear 'option' remark

Agence France-Presse
JERUSALEM

An Israeli Minister was suspended from government meetings "until further notice" on Sunday, Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office said, after suggesting in an interview dropping a nuclear bomb on Gaza.

The comments by Heritage Minister Amichay Eliyahu advocating a fierce military response to Hamas's October 7 attacks even at the cost of the lives of hostages believed to be held in Gaza also drew rebuke from families of the captives.

Prime Minister Benjamin Netanyahu's office quickly responded in a statement, describing ultranationalist Eliyahu's remarks as "disconnected from reality" and adding that Israel was trying to spare "non-combatants" in Gaza. Israel has never admitted to having a nuclear bomb.

53 dead as Israel warplanes strike refugee camps in Gaza

One of the camps, a built-up residential area, is located in the evacuation zone where Israel had urged Palestinian civilians in Gaza to seek refuge as it focuses its military offensive on the north

Associated Press
DEIR AL-BALAH

Israeli warplanes struck two refugee camps in the Gaza Strip early on Sunday, killing at least 53 people and wounding dozens, health officials said. The strikes came as Israel said it would press on with its offensive to crush the territory's Hamas rulers, despite U.S. appeals for a pause to get aid to desperate civilians.

Palestinians searching for casualties at the site of Israeli strikes on houses, at the Magazi Refugee Camp on Sunday. REUTERS

Israel has rejected the idea of halting its offensive, even for brief humanitarian pauses proposed by U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken during his current tour of the region. Gaza's Health Ministry said more than 9,700 Palestinians have been killed in the territory in nearly a month of war, a number that is likely to rise as Israeli troops advance into dense, urban neighbourhoods.

Airstrikes hit the Maghazi refugee camp in central Gaza overnight, killing at least 40 people and wounding 34 others, the Health Ministry said.

Arafat Abu Mashaia, who lives in the camp, said the Israeli airstrike flattened several multi-story homes where people forced out of other parts of Gaza were sheltering.

No response

"It was a true massacre," he said while standing on the wreckage. "All here are peaceful people. I challenge anyone who says there were resistance [fighters] here."

There was no immediate comment from the Israeli military. The camp, a built-up residential area, is located in the evacuation zone where Israel's military had urged Palestinian civilians to seek refuge as it focuses its military offensive on the north.

Another airstrike hit a house near a school at the Bureji refugee camp in central Gaza on Sunday, and staff at Al-Aqsa Hospital said at least 13 people were killed. The camp is home to an estimated 46,000 people and was struck on Thursday as well.

Despite appeals and overseas demonstrations, Israel has continued its bombardment across Gaza, saying it is targeting Hamas and accusing it of using civilians as human shields. Critics say Israel's strikes are often disproportionate, considering the large number of civilians killed.

Blinken meets Palestinian President in West Bank

Agence France-Presse
GAZA STRIP

U.S. Secretary of State Antony Blinken said Gazans "must not be forcibly displaced", speaking on a surprise visit on Sunday to the Israeli-occupied West Bank to meet Palestinian President Mahmud Abbas. It was the top U.S. diplomat's first visit to the Palestinian territory since war erupted between Israel and Hamas.

Gaza fell under its third total communications outage since the start of the war on Sunday night, with Palestinian communications company Paltel saying all of its communication and internet services were down.

"The Secretary reaffirmed the United States' commitment to the delivery of life-saving humanitarian assistance and resumption of essential services in Gaza and made clear that Palestinians must not be forcibly displaced," said a summary of the meeting released by the U.S. State Department.

Antony Blinken

Mr. Abbas condemned what he labelled a "genocide" unfolding in the Hamas-ruled Gaza Strip, according to the official Palestinian news agency *Wafa*. "I have no words to describe the genocide and destruction suffered by our Palestinian people in Gaza at the hands of Israel's war machine, with no regard for the principles of international law," Mr. Abbas was quoted as saying to Mr. Blinken.

Mr. Blinken flew into Tel Aviv on Sunday morning and travelled in a high-security convoy to the Ramallah headquarters of the Palestinian Authority – the body which, he recently said, should replace the Hamas government in Gaza. Israel has sought to destroy Gaza's Hamas rulers, raising the question of who would run the Palestinian territory after the war.

Mr. Abbas said the Palestinian Authority could return to power in Gaza in the future only if a "comprehensive political solution" is found for the Israeli-Palestinian conflict.

Three killed

Three Palestinians were killed by Israeli forces in the West Bank, the Health Ministry said.

Two men, aged 22 and 20, were killed "in an attack by Israeli occupation forces on Abu Dis", a suburb of annexed east Jerusalem separated by the Israeli wall encircling the West Bank, it said. Further south, a 22-year-old was "killed by Israeli occupation bullets in Nuba, northwest of Hebron," it added.

Radio anchor shot dead in Philippines

Agence France-Presse
MANILA

A press freedom watchdog says Jumalon was the 199th journalist to be killed since 1986

A radio anchor was fatally shot by a man inside his southern Philippine station on Sunday in a brazen attack that was witnessed by people watching the programme live on Facebook.

The gunman gained entry into the home-based radio station of provincial news broadcaster Juan Jumalon by pretending to be a listener. He then shot him twice during a morning broadcast in Calamba town, the police said.

An investigation was under way to identify the gunman and establish if the attack was work-related. The Philippines has long been regarded as one of the most dangerous places for journalists in the world.

President Ferdinand Marcos Jr. strongly condemned the shooting and said he ordered the national police to look into it.

The National Union of Journalists of the Philippines, a press freedom watchdog, said Jumalon was the 199th journalist to be killed in the country since 1986.

Against colonialism

Valiant fight: Members of the Roodebrug Soerabaia Community and Reenactor Indonesia taking part in a re-enactment of the 1945 Battle of Surabaya between Indonesian nationalists against British and British Indian forces, in Surabaya on Sunday. AFP

Hostage situation at Hamburg Airport ends

Agence France-Presse
BERLIN

The hostage situation at Hamburg Airport ended on Sunday afternoon, around 18 hours after a man drove his vehicle through the gates of the airport with his four-year-old daughter inside, authorities said. The man was arrested and the girl appears to be unharmed.

The airport in the northern German city had been closed to passengers and flights cancelled since Saturday night when the man, who was armed, broke through an airport gate with his vehicle and fired twice into the air with a weapon, according to German news agency *dpa*.

The police said that the 35-year-old man had his daughter inside the car after reportedly taking her by force from the mother in a possible custody battle.

National Centre for Radio Astrophysics
TATA INSTITUTE OF FUNDAMENTAL RESEARCH
Savitribai Phule Pune University Campus, Ganeshkhind, Pune 411 007

TENDER NOTICE NO.08/2023-2024

Request for Expression of Interest (EoI) for Design, Manufacture, Supply, testing & Commissioning of Hydraulic Mobile High Lift platform [duly mounted on the supplied Truck Chassis] for our Observatory at GMRT Khodad, Near Narayangaon, Tal. Junner, Dist. Pune 410504, Maharashtra. For details and downloading the tender document please visit our website : **http://www.ncra.tifr.res.in/ncra/ncra1/public-tenders-1**

U.K. Interior Minister plans to restrict tent use by homeless

Reuters
LONDON

Britain's Interior Minister Suella Braverman said on Saturday she would propose new laws to limit the use of tents by homeless people, saying many of them see it as "a lifestyle choice".

In a post on X, Ms. Braverman, who is seen as a possible future leader of the governing Conservative Party, said the state would always support those who are genuinely homeless.

"But we cannot allow our streets to be taken over by rows of tents occupied by people, many of them from abroad, living on the streets as a lifestyle choice," she said.

Placards during an anti-Suella Braverman, pro-refugee protest in London on Saturday. AFP

Ms. Braverman argued that unless the government acted, British cities would "go the way of places in the United States like San Francisco and Los Angeles, where weak policies have led to an explosion of crime, drug taking, and squalor".

She said there were options for people who did not want to be sleeping rough, and the government was working with local government to increase support.

She was criticised by Angela Rayner, the Opposition Labour Party's deputy leader, who said on X: "Rough sleeping is not 'a lifestyle choice'," and blamed increased homelessness on 13 years of Conservative government.

Saudi Arabia, Russia to continue oil cuts

Reuters
DUBAI

Top oil exporters Saudi Arabia and Russia confirmed on Sunday they would continue with their additional voluntary oil output cuts until the end of the year as concerns over demand and economic growth continue to weigh on crude markets. Both countries said their cuts would be reviewed next month to consider extending, deepening or increasing it.

Saudi Arabia confirmed it would continue with its additional voluntary cut of 1 million barrels per day (bpd) translating into a production of around 9 million bpd for December, a source said.

Following the Saudi statement, Moscow also announced it would continue its additional voluntary supply cut of 3,00,000 bpd from its crude oil and petroleum product exports until the end of December.

OPEC+, which comprises the countries of the Organisation of the Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) and leading allies including Russia, has been cutting output since last year in what it says is preemptive action to maintain market stability.

VACANCY NOTICE

HIGH COURT OF DELHI
DELHI JUDICIAL SERVICE EXAMINATION-2023

Online Applications are invited from eligible candidates for Delhi Judicial Service Examination-2023.

	GEN	SC	ST	TOTAL	Pay Scale
Number of Vacancies	34	05	14	53	Rs. 77840-136520

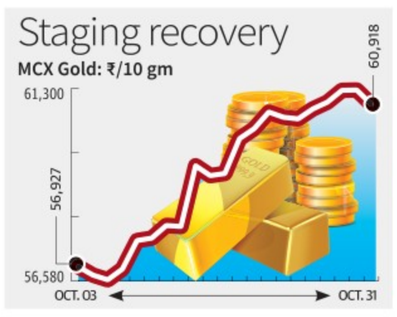
For eligibility criteria and other details, please refer to detailed advertisement on the website of High Court of Delhi i.e www.delhihighcourt.nic.in from 06.11.2023 onwards.

Registration of Online Applications

Starting Date & Time: 07.11.2023 (1000 Hours)
Closing Date & Time: 22.11.2023 (1730 Hours)

All further notifications, corrigendum etc. related to this advertisement, if any, will be published ONLY on the official website of Delhi High Court.

Sd/-
(Kanwaljeet Arora)
Registrar General



Gold, silver regain lost shine in October

PRECIOUSMETALS

B. Krishnakumar

Precious metals regained their lost their sheen in October with both gold and silver closing the month on a strong note. Comex gold recorded its biggest monthly rise since November 2022 and closed near the highest level in the last three months. The geopolitical tensions triggered by the Israel-Hamas conflict played a key role in bolstering sentiment in favour of the precious metals.

As a result, Comex gold closed 6.9% higher at $1,994.3 at the end of October. The gain in Comex silver was relatively muted with the white metal recording a 2.2% gain to settle at $22.95 an ounce.

Mirroring the trend in the global markets, MCX gold closed on a positive note at ₹61,280 representing a gain of 6.4% in October. MCX Silver posted a 4.1% gain in October to settle at ₹72,755 per kilogram.

As anticipated last month, Comex gold dropped to the lower end of the target zone at $1,850 and recovered sharply thereafter. The recovery has pushed the price above the positive trigger level of $1,960 mentioned last month. The short-term trend, as a result, has turned positive and Comex gold could head to the immediate target of $2,035-2,040.

Positive outlook

The short-term positive outlook for Comex gold would be confirmed once the price crosses the immediate resistance level of $2,021. On the contrary, a fall below $1,940 would be a sign of weakness and could delay the rally to the above-mentioned target zone.

Similar to gold, Comex silver, too, dropped below the lower trigger level and reached the target of $21 mentioned last month. The price is now confined within the trading zone of $20.6-$24.2. A breakout from this range will set the tone for the next major move. Until then, expect volatile price action within the current range of $20.6-$24.2.

Strong recovery

Mirroring the global trend, MCX gold recovered strongly after a weak start in October. The recovery pushed the gold price above the positive trigger level of ₹59,960 which is a sign of strength. The short-term outlook is positive and MCX gold could head to ₹61,750-62,250 zone. This view would be confirmed if the price moves above ₹61,600. A fall below ₹59,100 would invalidate the positive outlook.

Volatile movement likely

As anticipated last month, MCX silver almost hit the target of ₹64,500-65,000. The price is currently confined within the range of ₹65,000-73,000. A breakout from this range would trigger the next big move in silver. Until then volatile price movement within this trading range is likely.

To summarise, precious metals have recovered smartly suggesting scope for further upside, especially in gold. Silver prices have stayed largely range-bound and do not exhibit the same level of strength as gold.

(The author is a Chennai-based analyst/trader. The views and opinion featured in this column is based on the analysis of short-term price movement in gold and silver futures at COMEX & Multi Commodity Exchange of India. This is not meant to be a trading or investment advice.)

Send queries on personal finance and investing to the moneywise@thehindu.co.in ID. Our experts in personal finance will respond to select queries, but will not give specific recommendations for investment in a particular mutual fund, share or fixed deposit.

Pricey currency: Rupee is overvalued compared with export competitors like Chinese Renminbi, Bangladeshi Taka. GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCK

Hindsight bias and the equity markets

The intricacies of global equity markets, especially in the Indian context, extend beyond headline-grabbing factors such as surging bond yields

MARKET DYNAMICS

Anand Srinivasan
Sashwath Swaminathan

> The recovery trajectory post-pandemic has been K-shaped with those in upper wealth bracket tending to do well vis-a-vis low-income counterparts

> Household savings, relative to GDP, are dwindling. Inconsistent monsoons have led to higher food prices and dampened rural consumption

A tenet of behavioural economics, a branch of the subject that has garnered attention over the past two decades, is the tendency of participants to rationalise events in hindsight. Recent fluctuations in global equity markets exemplify this.

While these markets saw a downturn in the recent months, the Indian market's dip of less than 10% does not qualify as a correction. According to market experts, a decline of more than 20% is indicative of a bear market.

Despite surging bond yields, frequently cited as the culprit, this explanation seems too simplistic, especially given the long-standing trend of rising yields in anticipation of the U.S. Federal Reserve's tightening steps. The Fed's meeting on November 1 did not present a dovish stance, leaving room for potential rate hikes without hints of cuts. This raises the question: Why are Indian markets faltering?

Rupee overvalued

The Indian rupee is overvalued compared with its main export competitors like the Chinese Renminbi and Bangladeshi Taka. A country's exports become more expensive to foreign trade partners, and its imports are dearer to domestic consumers when a currency is artificially propped up by the nation's central bank.

This, coupled with the projected global market slowdown, has strained exports, as evidenced by prominent Indian IT- company performances. The RBI has taken steps like selling dollars to stabilise the rupee.

Post-COVID recovery

The recovery trajectory post-pandemic has been K-shaped. This suggests those in the upper brackets of wealth have tended to do quite well after the pandemic compared with low-income counterparts, who continue to stay laggards.

While luxury goods and gold retail thrived, entry-level car and two-wheeler sales lag pre-pandemic figures significantly. Data from Apple Inc. in India and luxury-car sales reaffirms this trend. Some proponents of the recovery stipulate India still stands to gain from such an economic trend. Unfortunately, apart from Jaguar Land Rover, Indian car manufacturers have been unable to tap this luxury boom.

Household savings, relative to GDP, are dwindling to unprecedented lows. Inconsistent monsoon seasons have led to increased food prices and dampened rural consumption. FMCG sales figures and subsequent corporate actions mirror this trend. The middle class faces financial strain, and looming job losses in India's top IT firms compound the woes. Such challenges may further suppress consumption.

Conflict in West Asia

Tensions in West Asia have put the markets on edge.

Though petrol and diesel prices remain stable, auto- gas prices have surged. Industries like tyres, paints, and chemicals, which rely on crude oil, will likely face impact on sales and profit.

Rising inflation

Inflation is on an upward trajectory, particularly in food and services (comprising more than 70% of the consumption basket). This trend may persist during the next six months. Diplomatic issues with Canada and Qatar complicate matters. Canada, a vital lentil provider for India, has seen reduced exports, and with Qatar being India's primary gas supplier, an essential supply contract is up for renegotiation this year.

FII, FI investments

While FIIs divest, Indian retail investors, mutual funds and domestic institutional investors are purchasing. Retail investors and proactive mutual funds have borne the brunt of significant losses in the small and mid-cap sectors. Due to the reasons above, the upside potential for Indian equity seems limited, and there's minimal hope for substantial FII investments in the foreseeable future. Market predictions suggest a continuation of the current trend, with potential further downturns if global conditions deteriorate.

The intricacies of global equity markets, especially in the Indian context, extend beyond headline-grabbing factors like surging bond yields. The nuanced challenges encompass currency-valuation discrepancies, post-pandemic recovery patterns, household savings dynamics, geopolitical strains, inflationary pressures and the contrasting behaviour of foreign and domestic investors. The confluence of these factors suggests cautious optimism for the India market, with an emphasis on vigilance and adaptability in the face of evolving global and local circumstances.

(Anand Srinivasan is a consultant. Sashwath Swaminathan is a research assistant at Aionion Investment Services)

Health cover can't be replaced

THINKINVESTOR

An investment portfolio to fund your medical expenses (self-insure) instead of buying a health insurance plan may not be optimal either as a base or as an additional plan but is necessary as a third tier

Venkatesh Bangaruswamy

Health insurance is expensive. The premium increases over time for two reasons –when your insurance company experiences significant claims from your cohort (group) and when you transition from one age band to another. Is it then optimal to create an investment portfolio to fund your medical expenses (self-insure) instead of buying a health insurance? In this article, we discuss why self-insurance may not be optimal either as a base or as an additional plan but is necessary as a third tier.

Beyond insurance

You need base health insurance to cover medical expenses – a group insurance plan from your employer or an individual plan if you are an independent professional. Why? Suppose you want to buy a house five years hence. You can invest to accumulate enough money to make down payment for the house. At the end of five years, you can liquidate the investment and buy the house. You can then start another goal.

But it is not how medical expenses work. You could incur a significant medical expense instantly after you set-up an investment account. And, even if you incur the first significant medical expense five years after you set-up the account, you could incur a significant expense a year later. That gives you limited time to rebuild the account to meet the expenses.

A base health cover will pay claims next year even if you filed a claim this year. An additional cover may be required when group insurance cover or individual base plan is inadequate. And, even then, your healthcare cover may not be complete! Why?

Healthcare inflation is typically much higher than general inflation. Importantly, this inflation rises each year even if general inflation is mild. Therefore, the cost of medical procedures could be higher next year compared with this year. Increasing your sum insured continually may not be optimal because of high premiums. So, what should you do?

Conclusion

Your primary healthcare need is covered by base plan and an additional cover. Self-insurance is helpful beyond the primary need. You can set aside money on a continual basis and invest in a large-cap ETF. The aim is to invest in a high expected-returns-generating asset (equity) to accumulate a significant amount over the years to meet rise in costs due to inflation. This investment can also help you meet expenses not fully covered by insurance policies.

(The author offers training programmes for individuals to manage their personal investments)

Personal Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 5 years — Loan amount 1 lakh Tenure 5 years — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
HDFC Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to Rs 4,999
Tata Capital	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Flat Rs 76
State Bank of India	10.55-14.55	10,759-11,777	2,152-2,355	NIL (till 31st January 2024)
ICICI Bank	10.50 onwards	10,747 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2.50%
Bank of Baroda	10.80-18.25	10,821-12,765	2,164-2,553	Up to 2% (min Rs 1,000 and max Rs 10,000)
Axis Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 2%
Kotak Mahindra Bank	10.99 onwards	10,869 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3%
Bank of India	10.25-14.75	10,685-11,829	2,137-2,366	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 5,000)
Canara Bank	10.65-15.65	10,784-12,066	2,157-2,413	Up to 1%
Punjab National Bank	10.40-16.95	10,772-12,413	2,144-2,483	Up to 1%
HSBC Bank	9.99-16.00	10,621-12,159	2,124-2,432	Up to 2%
Federal Bank	11.49 onwards	10,994 onwards	2,199 onwards	Up to 3%
Union Bank of India	11.40-15.50	10,971-12,027	2,194-2,405	Up to 1% (Maximum Rs 7,500)
Bajaj Finserv	11.00 onwards	10,871 onwards	2,174 onwards	Up to 3.93%
Punjab & Sind Bank	10.15-12.80	10,660-11,325	2,132-2,265	Up to 1%
South Indian Bank	12.85-20.60	11,338-13,414	2,268-2,683	Up to 2%
UCO Bank	12.45-12.85	11,236-11,338	2,247-2,268	Up to 1% (Minimum Rs 750)
IDFC First Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3.50%
Bank of Maharashtra	10.00-12.80	10,624-11,325	2,125-2,265	1% (Rs 1,000-Rs 10,000)
Karnataka Bank	14.14	11,670	2,334	Up to 2% of loan amount (Min. Rs 2,500 & Max. Rs 8,500)
IndusInd Bank	10.49 onwards	10,744 onwards	2,149 onwards	Up to 3%

Car Loans

Rates and Charges — Loan amount 5 lakh Tenure 1 year — (% of loan amount)

Name of Lender	Interest Rate (%)	EMI (Rs)	Processing fee
Union Bank of India	8.75 - 10.50	10,319 - 10,747	Nil till 15 November 2023
Punjab National Bank	8.75 - 9.60	10,319 - 10,525	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 1,500)
Bank of Baroda	8.70 - 12.10	10,307 - 11,148	Up to Rs 500
Canara Bank	8.70 - 11.95	10,307 - 11,110	Nil till 31 December 2023
Bank of India	8.75 - 10.75	10,319 - 10,809	Nil
UCO Bank	8.45 - 10.55	10,246 - 10,759	Nil
State Bank of India	8.65 - 9.70	10,294 - 10,550	Nil
Bank of Maharashtra*	8.70 - 13.00	10,307 - 11,377	Nil
Indian Overseas Bank**	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	0.50% (Rs 500 - Rs 5,000)
ICICI Bank	8.95 onwards	10,367 onwards	Rs 999 - Rs 8,500
HDFC Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	0.50% (Rs 3,500 - Rs 8,000)
Karnataka Bank	8.95 - 11.30	10,367 - 10,946	0.60% (Rs 3,000 - Rs 11,000)
Federal Bank	8.85 onwards	10,343 onwards	Rs 2,000 - Rs 4,500
Punjab and Sind***	8.85 - 10.25	10,343 - 10,685	0.25% (Rs. 1,000 - Rs. 15,000)
South Indian Bank	8.75 onwards	10,319 onwards	1% (Max: Rs 10,000)
City Union Bank	14.25 - 14.75	11,699 - 11,829	1.25% (Min: Rs 1,000)

*0.25% interest rate concession for existing housing loan borrowers and corporate salary account holders
**0.50% interest rate concession to borrowers with credit scores of 750 and above. Interest rate concession of 0.20% to borrowers for financing Electric 4 Wheelers. 0.20% concession to existing Housing Loan Borrowers
***Concession of up to 50% on processing fee for PSB Apna Vahan Sugam.

Rates and charges as on October 31 — **Source: Paisabazaar.com**

BENCHMARK

Virat's a legend of the game, says Dravid as Kohli turns 35

K.R. DEEPAK

Coach Rahul Dravid described Virat Kohli, who celebrated his 35th birthday on Sunday, as a legend of the game. Speaking to ICC, Dravid said, "Virat's a legend of the game, especially (in) this format of the game. The standard of his performance over the years has probably set a benchmark for his generation of cricketers."

BLESSED

'Equalling Tendulkar's record on my birthday the stuff of dreams'

BCCI TWITTER

Virat Kohli said on Sunday that scoring his 49th ODI century on his 35th birthday, which put him on par with the legendary Sachin Tendulkar, was the stuff dreams are made of. "Every opportunity to play for India is a big one; to be able to ton up on my birthday is a stuff of dreams. Grateful to God that I've been blessed with such moments."

ANOTHER PEAK

Kohli reaches 500 in a WC edition, emulates Tendulkar and Rohit

K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli is the third Indian after Sachin Tendulkar and Rohit Sharma, and the 17th overall, to score 500 runs in a single ODI World Cup. Kohli (1573) overtook Sri Lanka's Kumar Sangakkara (1532) to become the third-highest run-scorer in World Cup history. Only Tendulkar (2278) and Ricky Ponting (1743) are ahead of Kohli.

EXTRA SPECIAL

Kohli becomes third batter in WC to celebrate birthday with a ton

K.R. DEEPAK

Virat Kohli became the third batter, after New Zealand's Ross Taylor and Mitchell Marsh of Australia, to score a World Cup century on his birthday. In ODIs (overall), Kohli is the seventh batter to reach the three-figure mark on his birthday (Tom Latham, Sanath Jayasuriya, Sachin Tendulkar and Vinod Kambli apart from Taylor and Marsh).

Kohli's ton, Jadeja's five-for drive the Indian juggernaut

The birthday boy's 49th ODI century equals Tendulkar's record; Shreyas chips in with a sterling half-century as Rohit's men blow away the Proteas with a 243-run win; Men in Blue assured of top spot

ODI WORLD CUP

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
KOLKATA

The skies turn dark early in Eastern India but even in this inky blackness, Virat Kohli shone like the sun, staying even more incandescent than the floodlights. Kohli's record-equalling 49th ODI ton (101 n.o., 121b, 10x4), that helped him draw level with his idol Sachin Tendulkar, set the base for India's 326 for five, a total that proved way beyond South Africa's grasp in the World Cup game at a boisterous Eden Gardens here on Sunday.

Kohli's support cast included batter Shreyas Iyer (77) and a relentless bowling attack that stifled the rivals. South Africa finished with 83 in 27.1 overs and the Men in Blue won by 243 runs. The pursuit hinged a lot on Quinton de Kock but the southpaw slashed a Mohammed Siraj delivery onto his stumps in the second over. Skipper Temba Bavuma tried to hang around but the noose tightened when Ravindra Jadeja spun one into his timber.

Mohammed Shami then steamed in and gained an edge from Aiden Markram.

Later Jadeja won a successful review against Heinrich Klaasen and the pavilion-bound procession had a steady rhythm as Shami trapped Rassie van der Dussen right in front. At 40 for five, the visitors were in a shambles, a state that never changed as India, especially Jadeja (five for 33), kept prising out wickets.

In the afternoon, fans, wearing their blue jerseys with either Virat or Rohit inscribed on them, trooped into the bustling venue. Rohit Sharma won the toss, elected to bat, and dished out a quickfire 24-ball 40. Lungi Ngidi was drilled past covers and hoisted for sixes, a nervous Marco Jansen, saddled with wides, was pulled, and just as it seemed that Rohit was set for a big one, he succumbed to Kagiso Rabada.

Birthday boy Kohli walked in as applause rippled through the packed stands. Meanwhile, Shubman Gill lofted Jansen for six. But Gill was beaten all ends up by a Keshav Maharaj special that pinged the batter to the crease and disturbed the stumps. India had the impetus at 93 for two in 10.3 overs, and it was left to Kohli and Shreyas to strike roots.

Top draw: Kohli's wealth of experience came to the fore on a tricky surface. K.R. DEEPAK

Kohli drove and whipped while the South African quicks tested Shreyas with some short-pitched deliveries. The scoring rate dipped as spinners Maharaj and Tabraiz Shamsi kept it tight and the fielders responded with alacrity. Gradually in their alliance Kohli and Shreyas got their respective fifties and the latter tucked into an erratic Jansen before hoisting Aiden Markram.

The 134-run third-wicket partnership terminated once Shreyas fell to Ngidi and K.L. Rahul departed while trying to hasten the run-rate. Suryakumar Yadav then lent urgency, slog-sweeping Shamsi while Kohli muscled against Jansen. Even after Suryakumar lobbed a reverse-sweep and perished, Kohli remained the steady anchor and his special hundred was registered with a single off Rabada. There was relief and a half-smile before he raised his bat. Soon his partner Jadeja smote a six off Ngidi as India finished with a total that left the rivals gasping.

SCOREBOARD

INDIA
Rohit Sharma c Bavuma b Rabada 40 *(24b, 6x4, 2x6)*, Shubman Gill b Maharaj 23 *(24b, 4x4, 1x6)*, Virat Kohli (not out) 101 *(121b, 10x4)*, Shreyas Iyer c Markram b Ngidi 77 *(87b, 7x4, 2x6)*, K.L. Rahul c van der Dussen b Jansen 8 *(17b)*, Suryakumar Yadav c de Kock b Shamsi 22 *(14b, 5x4)*, Ravindra Jadeja (not out) 29 *(15b, 3x4, 1x6)*; Extras (lb-2, w-22, nb-2): 26; Total (for five wkts. in 50 overs): 326.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-62 (Rohit, 5.5 overs), 2-93 (Gill, 10.3), 3-227 (Shreyas, 36.5), 4-249 (Rahul, 42.1), 5-285 (Suryakumar, 45.6).

SOUTH AFRICA BOWLING
Ngidi 8.2-0-63-1, Jansen 9.4-0-94-1, Rabada 10-1-48-1, Maharaj 10-0-30-1, Shamsi 10-0-72-1, Markram 2-0-17-0.

SOUTH AFRICA
Quinton de Kock b Siraj 5 *(10b, 1x4)*, Temba Bavuma b Jadeja 11 *(19b, 1x4)*, Rassie van der Dussen lbw b Shami 13 *(32b, 1x4)*, Aiden Markram c Rahul b Shami 9 *(6b, 2x4)*, Heinrich Klaasen lbw b Jadeja 1 *(11b)*, David Miller b Jadeja 11 *(11b, 2x4)*, Marco Jansen c Jadeja b Kuldeep 14 *(30b, 1x4)*, Keshav Maharaj b Jadeja 7 *(11b, 1x4)*, Kagiso Rabada c & b Jadeja 6 *(26b)*, Lungi Ngidi b Kuldeep 0 *(3b)*, Tabraiz Shamsi (not out) 4 *(4b, 1x4)*; Extras (w-2): 2; Total (in 27.1 overs): 83.

FALL OF WICKETS
1-6 (de Kock, 1.4), 2-22 (Bavuma, 8.3), 3-35 (Markram, 9.5), 4-40 (Klaasen, 12.5), 5-40 (van der Dussen, 13.1), 6-59 (Miller, 16.3), 7-67 (Maharaj, 18.4), 8-79 (Jansen, 25.4), 9-79 (Rabada, 26.2).

INDIA BOWLING
Bumrah 5-0-14-0, Siraj 4-1-11-1, Jadeja 9-1-33-5, Shami 4-0-18-2, Kuldeep 5.1-1-7-2.

Toss: India.
PoM: Kohli.
India won by 243 runs.

Next assignment

South Africa: November 10 vs. **Afghanistan,** Ahmedabad, 2 p.m.

India: November 12 vs. **Netherlands,** Bengaluru, 2 p.m.

Points table

	M	W	L	PTS	NRR
India (Q)	8	8	0	16	2.456
South Africa (Q)	8	6	2	12	1.376
Australia	7	5	2	10	0.924
New Zealand	8	4	4	8	0.398
Pakistan	8	4	4	8	0.036
Afghanistan	7	4	3	8	-0.330
Sri Lanka	7	2	5	4	-1.162
Netherlands	7	2	5	4	-1.398
Bangladesh (E)	7	1	6	2	-1.446
England (E)	7	1	6	2	-1.504

Q: Qualified | **E:** Eliminated

'Ultimate satisfaction when you do well and team wins'

A day to cherish: Jadeja is ecstatic after bagging his first five-for in a World Cup match. K.R. DEEPAK

K.C. Vijaya Kumar
KOLKATA

Ever the live-wire on the field, Ravindra Jadeja is equally sparkling in press conferences. The all-rounder was obviously a happy man after scoring handy runs and grabbing a five-for against South Africa, all vital contributions towards India's emphatic triumph in the World Cup game at the Eden Gardens here on Sunday.

"There has been a nice rhythm over the last few matches. I have scored runs, I have got wickets and all this is a part of the team's momentum. When you perform well and the team wins, then it gives you the ultimate satisfaction," Jadeja told the media.

The recurring query about remaining unbeaten was tossed up and Jadeja fell back on the team's mantra: one match at a time. "We are just looking at the immediate match. Yes there are the knockouts ahead and it would be nice if we could keep winning. But for now, we are looking at our next match," he said.

When asked how, for a moment, if he was the captain, would he appraise his own performance, Jadeja quipped: "It is difficult *yaar,* last match I did try to think like a captain, but it didn't work. I am happy batting, bowling and fielding, and in contributing to the team's success."

And what about the birthday boy Virat Kohli? "Well every day we wear the Indian jersey, it is like a birthday only because not many get this chance. As for Virat, we are glad he is scoring runs, making his birthday even more special, and the more records he equals or breaks, it is better for the team. The timing is also good as he is doing all this in the current World Cup," Jadeja said.

'India is well balanced and highly skilled'

Doomed: De Kock chops a Siraj delivery onto his stumps. K.R. DEEPAK

Santadeep Dey
KOLKATA

South Africa coach Rob Walter heaped praise on India after his side got taken to the cleaners at the Eden Gardens in Kolkata.

South Africa had a mountain to climb after India, having opted to bat, put on 326 for five on Sunday.

"They are a hell of a team; very well balanced and highly skilled," Walter said, addressing the media after the Proteas embarrassingly went down by 243 runs.

South Africa and India are the only teams to have cemented a semifinal spot, thus far. Walter believes things could pan out differently if the two teams are pitted against each other once again during one of the knockout fixtures.

He said, "This is a funny game and you get taught new lessons every single day. It wouldn't surprise me if the tables turn the next time round. The beauty of it is that there maybe another shot for us and we've been given an opportunity to learn from this."

Pacer Marco Jansen conceded 94 to become the most expensive South African bowler in ODI World Cup history. However, Walter believes there is light to be found at the end of the tunnel.

He said, "It's a gift to be able to run out in front of 75,000 in a game like today and (there are) so many learning opportunities out there. Fortunately for us, today wasn't a must-win fixture."

Jadeja joins Yuvraj as India spinner with a WC five-for

Mayank Chaudhary
CHENNAI

Virat Kohli became the second batter, after Sachin Tendulkar (6976), to score 6000 runs in ODIs in India.

Quinton de Kock is the fourth South African batter to score 1000 runs in the World Cup after A.B. de Villiers, Jacques Kallis and Herschelle Gibbs.

Marco Jansen (9.4-0-94-1) registered the most expensive bowling figures for South Africa in a World Cup.

The Proteas had their worst bowling PowerPlay (91/1) and worst batting PowerPlay (35/3) in the 2023 edition.

Rohit equalled de Villiers for the most ODI sixes in a calendar year (58).

South Africa's 83 is its lowest World Cup total and its joint-second lowest in ODIs.

South Africa's 243-run defeat is the biggest defeat (by runs) in the World Cup and ODIs (overall). Its previous worst World Cup defeat was the 130-run loss to India in 2015.

Ravindra Jadeja is only the second Indian spinner after Yuvraj Singh (5/31 vs Ireland, 2011) to take a five-wicket haul in the ODI World Cup. He also registered his best ODI figures (9-1-33-5).

India (8) equalled its longest winning streak in a single edition of the ODI World Cup, the earlier one coming in 2003.

This is the first time South Africa failed to hit a six in an ODI match.

Victim No. 1: Bavuma was bamboozled by a Jadeja special to have his stumps pegged back. K.R. DEEPAK

The leaderboard

Batting	Inns	Runs	HS	Avg	SR	100s/50s
de Kock (SA)	8	550	174	68.75	111.33	4/0
Kohli (Ind)	8	543	103*	108.60	88.29	2/4
Ravindra (NZ)	8	523	123*	74.71	107.39	3/2
Rohit (Ind)	8	442	131	55.25	122.77	1/2
Warner (Aus)	7	428	163	61.14	111.74	2/1
Bowling	**Inns**	**Wkts**	**BB**	**Avg**	**Econ**	**4W/5W**
Zampa (Aus)	7	19	4/8	17.15	5.52	3/0
Madushanka (SL)	7	18	5/80	22.11	6.41	1/1
Jansen (SA)	8	17	3/31	24.41	6.41	0/0
Shami (Ind)	4	16	5/18	7.00	4.30	1/2
Afridi (Pak)	8	16	5/54	25.56	5.76	0/1

Sri Lanka, Bangladesh will look to put the poor shows behind them

The solitary win of Shakib's men in the tournament seems like a distant memory while Mendis' team enters the contest after the morale-shattering 302-run loss to India

Time to reset: Sri Lanka will hope to look ahead after the disastrous loss to India in its previous encounter. R.V. MOORTHY

ODI WORLD CUP

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

The lights burned bright at the Arun Jaitley Stadium on Sunday night. The smog, a scourge for the residents of the Capital during this time of the year, was visible.

Under lights, the beleaguered Sri Lankan players were getting ready for a training session ahead of their World Cup clash with Bangladesh. Earlier in the day, a Bangladesh fan – who has flown to India to follow his team – wanted to know: "Is the weather gloomy?"

It was his first time in Delhi – though he has been to the other cities he played, like Kolkata and Mumbai – and was surprised to learn that it was poor air quality that caused the fogginess in the afternoon. The conditions here are so poor and hazardous that it has become a cause for concern and topic for much discussion on the eve of the match between these two struggling Asian teams.

Bangladesh has just two points, having lost six matches in a row. It seems like its only win, against Afghanistan in the first match, came long ago.

The Lankans have posted two wins, but they may not be in a great frame of mind, after being hammered by 302 runs in the last match by India. But then, they aren't the only side that has been brushed aside by Rohit Sharma's men.

With the top seven teams – and the host Pakistan – qualifying for the Champions Trophy, Sri Lanka and Bangladesh still have something to play for, apart from pride. Both teams should be keen to put the poor shows behind them.

The Lankans must be hoping the impressive young left-arm seamer Dilshan Madushanka continues his form as one of the leading wicket takers of the tournament, and Sadeera Samarawickrama to deliver with the bat again. As for Bangladesh, it needs to up its game considerably to arrest the slide.

Today's match

BANGLADESH vs. SRI LANKA
Delhi
2 p.m.

H2H in ODIs
Played: 53 | Bangladesh: 9
Sri Lanka: 42 | NR: 2

EYE ON THE SKY
High 30°c
Low 17°c
Moderate fog
Source: IMD

We have identified our shortcomings as a team: Mendis

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

Sri Lanka wants to forget its last match. Skipper Kusal Mendis admitted it was hard to think about the 302-run defeat to India at Mumbai.

"When we actually talk about the previous match, I feel very sad about it," Mendis said here on Sunday, ahead of the clash with Bangladesh. "That's why it is hard for us to stay thinking about that previous match. We still have two more matches in this tournament."

He expressed hope, looking ahead. "We have identified our shortcomings as a team, and now our focus is on the upcoming matches," he said. "We want to forget about that match as soon as possible. But it is not a match that can be easily forgotten. We should always try to prepare ourselves for the next two matches without thinking about that match."

Mendis is happy with the way left-arm seamer Dilshan Madushanka and batter Sadeera Samarawickrama have fared. "Dilshan Madushanka has been performing exceptionally well, particularly in his bowling," he said. "His standout performance in the Asia Cup 20-20 is noteworthy. It is really good that a fast bowler comes to India and bowls well like that.

"Similarly, Sadeera Samarawickrama has showcased his talents, although he didn't have much playing time due to his absence from the team for the past three-four years. He has an idea of what his role is. I am very happy that he is doing it that way."

Disappointing

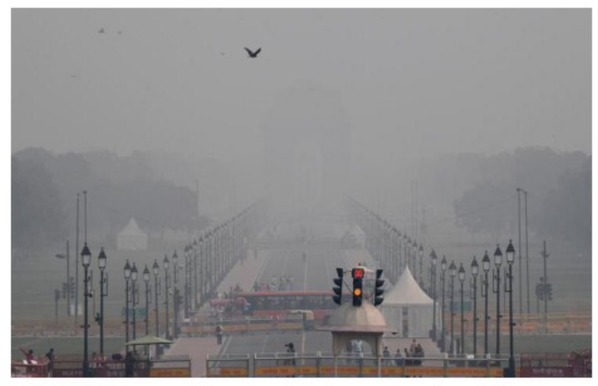
Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha said the team was disappointed and it disappointed the fans, too. "I take responsibility as well as anyone in the group," he said. "We didn't play our best cricket but the thing is nothing has changed from the first game to now. Only [what] has changed is what's going through between our ears.

"Our skills haven't gone anywhere. So, I think we put ourselves down by having high expectations. We haven't played our best cricket or what we were capable of or we played before coming into the World Cup. So, in that sense, we need to look in the mirror and see what went wrong."

The final week (league)

November 6	Bangladesh vs. Sri Lanka	Delhi	2 p.m.
November 7	Australia vs. Afghanistan	Mumbai	2 p.m.
November 8	England vs. Netherlands	Pune	2 p.m.
November 9	New Zealand vs. Sri Lanka	Bengaluru	2 p.m.
November 10	South Africa vs. Afghanistan	Ahmedabad	2 p.m.
November 11	Australia vs. Bangladesh	Pune	10.30 a.m.
November 11	England vs. Pakistan	Kolkata	2 p.m.
November 12	India vs. Netherlands	Bengaluru	2 p.m.

Lanka-Bangladesh match to go ahead, confirms ICC



Unhealthy: A view of the smog-filled Kartavyapath with the pollution level turning into 'very severe' category. R.V. MOORTHY

P.K. Ajith Kumar
NEW DELHI

New Delhi sits atop the list of the world's most polluted cities at the moment.

In the real time list compiled by the Swiss company *IQAir*, New Delhi recorded an air quality index (AQI) of 526 on Sunday, which comes under the Hazardous category. The forecast isn't great for Monday, the World Cup match day (Sri Lanka vs Bangladesh).

The ICC is monitoring the situation and guidance from the experts has been sought. "The BCCI engaged the services of renowned pulmonologist Dr. Randeep Guleria to assess the situation in Delhi ahead of Monday's game and provide independent expert advice," according to a statement from the ICC. "Under Dr. Guleria's guidance, the venue team has been taking mitigating actions throughout the day including the implementation of water sprinklers around the premises and the installation of air purifiers in the dressing rooms and match officials areas.

"The AQI within the stadium was monitored throughout the day which has been reduced to levels considered acceptable by Dr. Guleria. The ICC will continue to work in collaboration with Dr Guleria, BCCI, DDCA, and the Delhi Government to monitor the air quality and to take all possible steps to mitigate the air quality concerns at the Arun Jaitley Stadium and the match remains scheduled to take place in Delhi on Monday."

This is not the first time that Sri Lanka and Bangladesh have encountered situations like this in Delhi. In the third Test in December 2017, the play had to be stopped because of pollution and the Lankan players had worn masks on the field. In 2019, some of the Bangladesh players had worn masks during a training session ahead of the first T20I.

Bangladesh coach Chandika Hathurusingha said on Sunday that some of his players, who were asthmatic, did not practise and stayed indoors. Sri Lanka's team manager Mahinda Halangoda clarified that the team didn't request for a change of venue.

"We were asking the ICC what would happen because when we came here, we saw the Bangladesh team had cancelled (training)," he said. "We just asked them what was the plan. I think they have installed some equipment here, and they have got specialists to check and they are helping them out. We will do exactly what the ICC actually tells us to do."

India dethrones Japan with a commanding display, regains the title it won in 2016

Stellar show: After a cagey start, the Indians came into their own and slotted four past the hapless Japanese. PTI

ACT HOCKEY

Uthra Ganesan
RANCHI

For a stadium with an official capacity of 8000, the Marang Gomke Jaipal Singh Munda hockey stadium here had at least double that number inside on Sunday and much more outside, crowded in front of half a dozen giant screens.

Reason to celebrate

All of them had reason to celebrate by the time the Jharkhand Women's Asian Champions Trophy ended, India lifting its second title after 2016 with a 4-0 win against Japan in the final.

The lines had started outside as early as 2 p.m. and it was clear even then not everyone would be able to enter.

Just before the scheduled start of the final at 8.30 pm, one of the floodlight towers went kaput, the reason being too little load or a short circuit, depending on who you asked, leading to a delay of almost 50 minutes in the presence of Chief Minister Hemant Soren.

All those inside and outside the stadium barely moved, patiently waiting for the game to start. They were rewarded with an entertaining contest between two teams equally desperate to prove themselves.

India started like always, looking to score early and taking control and the host had its chances, especially in the 15th minute with Vandana Katariya running all the way into the Japanese circle from the left but running out of partners to pass to.

Two minutes later, Monika put Baljeet Kaur through who found Sangita Kumari on the right to get the lead.

Having been an equal contest so far, a stung Japan hit back and in the 21st minute, Shiho Kobayakawa ran past three Indian defenders to score what could easily have been a contender for the goal of the tournament, only for an Indian referral to find it hit her body before and cancel it.

Missed chances at either end continued but it was more down to impeccable defending from either side than any mishits.

India doubled the lead when Neha deflected a Deep Grace PC in the 46th minute. Japan got a penalty stroke in the 52nd which Savita saved with an extended left leg, continuing her brilliant performance on the day as the bulwark that withstood every Japan attack.

That miss, perhaps, deflated Japan more than anything else with the side, fighting hard till then, appeared to have given up and India took advantage, adding two more to complete the formalities. It was only poetic that Vandana scored the final goal of the tournament in the final minute.

In the battle for bronze, China edged past a fighting Korea 2-1 in a rematch of the Asian Games final that saw both teams exchanging control in open play.

The results: Final: India 4 (Sangita Kumari, Neha, Lalremsiami, Vandana) bt Japan 0; **3/4 place:** China 2 (Yi Chen, Tiantian Luo) bt Korea 1 (Sujin An).

Special awards: Player-of-the-Match: Deep Grace Ekka; **Rising star of the match:** Sangita Kumari.

Pragg-Vaishali first brother-sister duo to play Candidates

CHESS

Press Trust of India
ISLE OF MAN

On the verge of her Grandmaster title, R. Vaishali outwitted former Women's world champion Zhongyi Tan of China to remain in sole lead after the end of the 10th and penultimate round of FIDE Women Grand Prix here.

Vaishali, along with her younger brother Praggnanandhaa, became the first brother-sister duo to qualify for the respective Candidates and they will be in action in Canada next year, fighting for a place in the World Championship finals.

Vaishali.
FILE PHOTO: B. JOTHI RAMALINGAM

With a live rating of 2498, Vaishali is just two points short of becoming a Grandmaster and when she does that, she and Pragg will also become the first siblings in the world to achieve this feat. Vaishali, on eight points, is followed by Anna Muzychuk of Ukraine half-a-point behind.

GM Vidit Gujrathi's fourth victory with black pieces ensured that he remained in joint lead alongside Hikaru Nakamura of United States and Andrey Esipenko of Russia who all have 7.5 points apiece.

With just one round remaining, Arjun Erigaisi also remained in contention for a place in the Candidates.

THE HINDU GROUP
THE HINDU
CRICKET WORLD CUP
TRIVIA CHALLENGE
1. Which umpire suffered a blow in the head when a Richie Richardson's shot struck him in the 1996 World Cup Semi-final against Australia?
2. Playing his maiden World Cup game, which Kiwi got a wicket from his first legitimate delivery in the 2007 ODI World Cup match against England?
3. Which Zimbabwean Cricketer smashed a 25-ball 50 against Australia and was adjudged 'Man of the Match' in a losing cause in the 2003 ODI World Cup?
Visit bit.ly/wctcterms to read the Terms & Conditions.
Scan the QR code to participate in the quiz. Top 3 winners each day will win exciting gift vouchers
Answer to yesterday's quiz:
1. Odumbe
2. Alastair Campbell
3. Wasim Akram

INBRIEF

Sikandar Raza appointed as Zimbabwe T20I captain

All-rounder Sikandar Raza has been named as captain of Zimbabwe's T20 team, it was announced by the Zimbabwe Cricket (ZC) Board after its meeting held on Saturday. He takes over from Craig Ervine, who will now lead the men's team in Tests and One-Day Internationals cricket. Dave Houghton was retained as the head coach.

Goa thumps Chennaiyin in the Indian Super League

Despite an improved performance in the second half, Chennaiyin FC went down 0-3 to FC Goa in an Indian Super League match in Chennai on Sunday. Boris Singh and Rowllin Borges found the net in the first half while Udanta Singh struck in the second. Chennaiyin showed promise with a few fine passes from Rafael Crivellaro that found its strikers not able to make them count. After that, it was the visitor's show all the way. Goa opened its account through Boris who was quick to pounce on a wonderful pass from Jay Gupta from the left. The visitor enlarged its lead when Borges' shot deflected off the leg of Sachu Siby and ballooned to the right side of the net. Udanta Singh closed out the match, firing one from just outside the box that left 'keeper Debjit Majumder clueless.

The result:
Chennaiyin FC 0 lost to FC Goa 3 (Boris Singh 13, Rowllin Borges 24, Udanta Singh 72).

LIVE TELECAST

Men's Cricket World Cup: Star Sports 1 (SD & HD) & Hotstar, 2 p.m.
Serie A: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.15 a.m. (Tuesday)
LaLiga: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 1.30 a.m. (Tuesday)
NBA: Sports 18-1 (SD & HD) & Jio Cinema App, 6 a.m. (Tuesday)

Punjab and Baroda lock horns in final

Mandeep's high-flying team is expected to face a stern test from Krunal's men in what promises to be an exciting encounter

Talking tactics: Abhishek, centre, with teammates during a practice session on the eve of the summit clash. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

MUSHTAQ ALI TROPHY

Sahil Mathur
MOHALI

The joy of Virat Kohli's 49th hundred was just a background murmur as the Punjab players kept the focus on their prize - the Syed Mushtaq Ali Trophy (SMAT) - for which they will face Baroda in the final here at the PCA IS Bindra Stadium.

The Mandeep Singh-led side began its tournament with a record shattering 275/6 against Andhra and has kept the same intent going in all the games, having a run rate of 10.56 - the best among all the 38 participating teams.

Abhishek Sharma, who is the second highest run-getter with 485 at a strike rate of 193.23, has been the go-to man for the local favourites.

Baroda's Abhale. SHIV KUMAR PUSHPAKAR

On Saturday, it was Abhishek again who took apart the Delhi bowling attack in the semifinal and helped Punjab book a place in the final after eight years.

While Abhishek has been the batting mainstay, the rest of the line-up has shown its muscle power as well; Punjab has combined 103 sixes so far in this tournament.

Despite a tough challenge awaiting, the Krunal Pandya-led side goes into the final after having a consistent run through the tournament, winning eight out of nine games.

A convincing all-round performance against Assam in the semifinals would have given a boost to the team as well.

However, Baroda will be wary of the home team Punjab, who is expected to come all guns blazing in its fifth attempt at the trophy that has been a missing piece in the trophy cabinet since the tournament began in 2007.

Diaz is Liverpool's saviour against Luton; Kane 'tricks in *Der Klassiker*

EURO LEAGUES

Reuters
SAN SEBASTIAN

Liverpool striker Luis Diaz came off the bench on Sunday to head a late equaliser (90+5 minute) in a 1-1 draw at Luton Town and then dedicated the goal to his father who was kidnapped in Colombia. A guerrilla movement later said it will release his father.

On the back foot for most of the game, Luton took a shock lead when Ross Barkley drove forward in the 80th minute to release Issa Kabore who passed for Tahith Chong to slide the ball past Liverpool goalkeeper Alisson.

The result left Liverpool third on 24 points, three behind leader Manchester City.

Arsenal's first loss
In Saturday's action, Newcastle United gave Arsenal its defeat of the Premier League season with an impassioned 1-0 victory, thanks to a controversial second-half goal by Anthony Gordon.

Araujo to the rescue
Barcelona's Ronald Araujo headed a stoppage-time goal to snatch a 1-0 win at Real Sociedad as it kept pace with the leaders in La Liga after being outplayed by the host.

Harry Kane marked his first appearance in *Der Klassiker* in trademark fashion with a hat-trick to take his Bundesliga goal total to 15 in 10 games as Bayern Munich thrashed Borussia Dortmund 4-0 away on Saturday.

The England striker slotted in from close range after nine minutes after Dayot Upamecano had headed a fast-starting Bayern in front five minutes earlier, with both goals created by Leroy Sane.

Dortmund improved after the break but Kane grabbed his second goal to seal the points in the 72nd minute. Kane then completed his third hat-trick of the season in stoppage time.

The results: Premier League: Nottingham Forest 2 (Aina 5, Mangala 47) bt Aston Villa 0; Luton 1 (Chong 80) drew with Liverpool 1 (Diaz 90+5).
Serie A: Hellas Verona 1 (Folorunsho 86) lost to Monza 3 (Colombo 41, 73, Caldirola 84); Cagliari 2 (Viola 48, Zappa 69) bt Genoa 1 (Gudmundsson 51).
La Liga: Alaves 1 (Sedlar 79) bt Almeria 0; Valencia 1 (Pepelu 45+7-pen) bt Granada 0.
Bundesliga: Wolfsburg 2 (Cerny 37, Paredes 59) drew with Werder Bremen 2 (Ducksch 7, Borre 65); Heidenheim 2 (Schoppner 70, Kleindiest 90+4) bt Stuttgart 0.
Saturday's results: Premier League: Newcastle 1 (Gordon 64) bt Arsenal 0.
La Liga: Real Betis 2 (Jose 7, Perez 65) bt Mallorca 0; Celta Vigo 1 (Starfelt 22) drew with Sevilla 1 (En-Nesyri 84); Real Sociedad 0 lost to Barcelona 1 (Araujo 90+3).
Serie A: Atalanta 1 (Scamacca 61) lost to Inter Milan 2 (Calhanoglu 40-pen, Martinez 57); AC Milan 0 lost to Udinese 1 (Pereyra 62); Bologna 1 (Ferguson 46) bt Lazio 0.
Bundesliga: Borussia Dortmund 0 lost to Bayern Munich 4 (Upamecano 4, Kane 9, 72, 90+3).

Triple joy: Kane fires in to complete his hat-trick and Bayern's fourth against Dortmund. AP

Pick up the book

With Children's Day coming up, authors and teachers emphasise the significance of reading for pleasure, especially among children

GETTY IMAGES/ISTOCKPHOTO

Nahla Nainar
nahla.nainar@thehindu.co.in

For generations, story-telling has preserved narratives whose currency comes alive each time a tale is read or related. They are our weapons against boredom and ignorance but, in a world shaped by technology and Artificial Intelligence, will stories stand the test of time? Judging by the creative output in recent years, the enforced social distancing of the pandemic has reiterated the power of reading, especially for children. Stories have also become tools to promote knowledge acquisition in schools worldwide.

In the classroom
In India, the National Initiative for Proficiency in Reading with Understanding and Numeracy (NIPUN) Mission aims to achieve universal aptitude in literacy and numeracy for every child by Grade 3 by 2026-27. Aiding NIPUN is the Ghosticha Shanivaar (Saturday's Story) programme, a brainchild of UNICEF's Maharashtra chapter, which saw the circulation of e-books in Marathi, Urdu and English by UNICEF's partner Pratham Books, through its StoryWeaver digital library, to children of government schools across the state. "We found students were as eager to receive the books as teachers were to participate in reading the stories to them," says Rajeshwari Chandrasekhar, former chief of UNICEF Maharashtra. "Children, no matter where they come from, should have the access and opportunity to read, so that later on, they can read to learn."

But keeping alive the joy of reading is not easy; more so, in a classroom setting. The tendency of parents and teachers to be judgmental about children's reading choices can be problematic. "If young people are not reading, it is the fault of the adults in their lives. You're not just giving them the right things to read. Also, the 'right' things don't just constitute what you like the most," says Vidya Mani, founder of Benguluru-based Funky Rainbow bookshop and consultancy that promotes Indian children's literature.

Unlike earlier, children have many alternative approaches to reading. "Sometimes watching a movie can inspire children to seek books on the same topic. It's not true that children are not reading. There are those who do and those who don't. We shouldn't make a virtue or vice out of reading," says Mani. Reading can shape the psyche and behaviour of children, as the contemplative habit can lead to a more well-rounded individual. "As a teacher I can almost always tell which students are readers and which are not. It is the cognition, empathy, emotional maturity, critical thinking that a child shows when they read for pleasure. Beyond that are the obvious benefits of being a reader: vocabulary, language skills, listening, comprehension and retaining information," says Paro Anand, award-winning author and former head of National Centre for Children's Literature (National Book Trust, India).

Connecting the dots
Reading is foundational to any learning, so connecting the dots between reading for pleasure and reading for learning is to get parents see its benefits. For this, it is essential to make it a part of the Indian school system, feels Bijal Vachchrajani, author and commissioning editor of Pratham Books. "We need to celebrate how reading develops imagination, which is critical to making decisions and life skills. The most crucial thing you need to ensure is that reading is not a chore. In a school community, libraries are going to be the most important part of the system," she says.

The tendency to restrict children's literary consumption to the folk tales and fables has to change, says Anand. "But no matter how well-told or illustrated, these stories are the same and how many times must we make children read those? This is a major reason why young people in India turn so easily to books from the West; they are more relatable. We need contemporary stories that deal with issues around children's lives today."

While authors today are more likely to come up with a spectrum of stories that span issues like climate change, gender relationships, sexual identity, familial dysfunction, digitisation will ensure the longevity of older content.

"Every age accommodates its own stories. They may be ancient or orally transmitted, but (like the Ramayana, which has versions and interpretations) they keep finding their setting. In the digital age, we already see old stories being tailored to suit big, small, deep, restless or irreverent attention spans," concludes novelist, playwright and columnist Shreekumar Varma.

II VISHWA VIDYAPEETH II
GROUP OF SCHOOLS
REGISTRATION OPEN FOR
2024-25
NURSERY - CLASS XII
REGISTER NOW
WHY VISHWA VIDYAPEETH?
• The First School to include Neural science into the Teaching Learning process.
• "Back to Gurukula" programmes to ensure actual experiential learning.
• Exclusive programmes like Bhagavad Gita, Yoga, In-house food and transport facility to ensure quality check.
• High standards for security.
ICSE
CBSE
IGCSE
Contact us on 7022009731/54 (Yelahanka) or 7022009757 (Varthur)

Pegula trumps Gauff to reach the final

The other semifinal between Swiatek and Sabalenka gets interrupted and postponed due to rain; the summit clash also put off till Monday

Domination: Pegula eased past third-seeded Gauff 6-2, 6-1. AP

WTA FINALS

Associated Press
CANCUN

Jessica Pegula outplayed U.S. Open winner Coco Gauff and beat her 6-2, 6-1 at the WTA Finals on a rainy and windy Saturday evening to reach the title match at the season-ending championship for the first time.

Their semifinal was tied at 2-all when the fifth-seeded Pegula reeled off six games in a row to claim the opening set and lead 2-0 in the second.

This was the first time two U.S. women played each other in the final four at this event since 2002, when Serena Williams defeated Jennifer Capriati. When Saturday's semifinal ended after an hour, Pegula and the third-seeded Gauff met at the net for a hug.

Pegula has won all eight singles sets she's played this week at the tournament for the top eight players in women's tennis. She is the first player since Williams in 2012 to get to the final without dropping a set.

"Coco is still the present and the future of U.S. tennis. I'm happy that I'm also at the top of the game and one of the leaders for all the Americans," Pegula said. "So that's always really nice. And that's kind of just where I see myself."

Rain plays spoilsport

They were scheduled to play a doubles match together later on Saturday, but that was wiped out by rain – and the second singles semifinal, between No. 1 Aryna Sabalenka and No. 2 Iga Swiatek, was suspended for the night. They were in just the fourth game when a storm arrived.

Action was halted with Swiatek leading 2-1 and Sabalenka serving at 30-all. Both wrapped themselves in white towels to brace against the chill. Organizers waited for nearly two hours before calling off all competition for the day.

Swiatek and Sabalenka are scheduled to resume their match on Sunday; the singles final, originally slated for Sunday, is pushed back to Monday.

The result: Semifinal: Pegula bt Gauff 6-2, 6-1.

केनरा बैंक
Canara Bank
A Government of India Undertaking
Together We Can
Start with Confidence.
Succeed with Canara.
Launching
Canara
START UP CELL
pan-India
• Ahmedabad • Bengaluru • Chennai • Delhi • Hyderabad • Mumbai • Pune
Canara Start-up Scheme
• Start-ups recognised by DPIIT are eligible
• Fund based & Non-fund based loan up to ₹10 crore
• Margin: 20%
• Flexible security comfort
• Attractive rate of interest
• Concessional processing and other charges
For more details, please visit your nearest branch
www.canarabank.com
1 Bank Number 1800 1030
24/7
* T&C apply

Balaji wins doubles in Ismaning Challenger

TENNIS

Sports Bureau

Sriram Balaji and Germany's Andre Begemann beat the German pair of Constantin Frantzen and Hendrik Jebens 7-6(4), 6-4 to take the honours in the €73,000 Ismaning Challenger in Germany.

It was a commendable effort by coach M. Balachandran, assisting the Indian players as part of the Doubles Dream project in Europe, as it was the fourth title in as many weeks. Balaji himself was figuring in two of those triumphs.

Begemann and Balaji with their big prize. WOLFFKRAN-OPEN

Djokovic seals seventh title with ease

No sweat: Djokovic took out Dimitrov in straight sets. AFP

PARIS MASTERS

Reuters
PARIS

World No. 1 Novak Djokovic cruised to a record-extending seventh Paris Masters title on Sunday when the top-seeded Serbian outclassed Bulgarian Grigor Dimitrov 6-4, 6-3 in the final.

In a clash featuring the two oldest players in the world's top 20, the 36-year-old Djokovic drew first blood, breaking the 17th-ranked Dimitrov for a 4-3 lead in the opening set, and he closed it out comfortably in 51 minutes.

The unseeded Dimitrov's only victory over Djokovic in 12 previous meetings came a decade ago and although the 32-year-old put up more of a fight in the second set, he could not prevent Djokovic from taking his 40th ATP Masters 1000 title.

Victory was sealed when Dimitrov sent a backhand wide, extended Djokovic's winning run to 18 matches since his defeat by Carlos Alcaraz in the Wimbledon title clash in July.

Bopanna-Ebden runner-up

Meanwhile in doubles, Rohan Bopanna and Matthew Ebden were beaten 6-2, 5-7, [10-7] by seventh seeds Santiago Gonzalez and Edouard Roger-Vasselin in the summit clash on Sunday.

Gokulam dazzles to beat NEROCA

I-LEAGUE

M.R. Praveen Chandran
KOZHIKODE

Gokulam Kerala FC returned to winning ways at home with a crushing 4-1 victory over NEROCA FC at the Corporation stadium here on Sunday.

Spaniard Nili Perdomo peeled away from his markers and tapped the ball past NEROCA goalkeeper Poirei to break the stalemate in the 28th minute.

Gokulam went ahead early in the second half. Substitute Abhijith made his way into the box from left and arrowed in a low cross which was booted in by Alejandro Sanchez.

Killing the contest

David Simbo headed in a corner in the 83rd minute to give some hope for NEROCA but Gokulam scored twice in space of two minutes to kill the contest.

The result:
Gokulam Kerala FC 4 (Nili Perdomo 28, Alejandro Sanchez 48 & 88-pen, Justine Ojoka 85) bt NEROCA FC I (David Simbo 83).

KARNATAKA ROUND-UP

Adil-Prajwal combine wins silver in National Games

BENGALURU: The Karnataka's men's doubles tennis team of Adil Kalyanpur and S.D. Prajwal Dev won the silver medal, after losing 6-7(5), 3-6 to Maharashtra's Purav Raja and Arjun Khade, in the National Games in Goa.

Amisha stars in Uttarakhand's win

B. Amisha scalped four wickets (4/23) as Uttarakhand beat Karnataka by 34 runs in the BCCI Senior Women's T20 Trophy in Raipur.

The scores: Uttarakhand 157/6 in 20 overs (Punam Raut 55, Reena Jindal 43) bt Karnataka 123 in 19.4 overs (B. Amisha 4/23).

Karnataka u-19 women beat Himachal Pradesh

Karnataka over Himachal Pradesh by 27 runs in the BCCI U-19 Women's T20 Trophy in Dehradun.

The scores: Karnataka 128/5 in 20 overs (Niki Prasad 27, H. Bhavika Reddy 30, Mithila Vinod 33) bt Himachal Pradesh 101/3 in 20 overs (Anshika S. Thakur 34 n.o., Kritika Kanwar 29 n.o.).

Punjab bests Karnataka

Punjab defeated Karnataka by six wickets in the BCCI Men's U-23 State 'A' One Day Trophy in Surat.

Silver success: Prajwal and Adil with their reward.

The scores: Karnataka 142 in 36.3 overs (Macneil Hadley Noronha 46, K.V. Aneesh 51, Emanjot Singh Chahal 3/27, Harjas Singh Tandon 4/18) lost to Punjab 143/4 in 32.1 overs (Jaskaranvir Singh Paul 44, Pukhraj Mann 48 n.o.).

Ishaan nets two in South United FC's facile victory

Ishaan Sahi scored a brace as South United FC beat Bangalore Independents 4-1 in the BDFA Super Division League football here on Sunday.

The results: Sporting Club Bengaluru 2 (Arif Shaikh 40, Saiyyad Unair 42) bt MFAR Student's Union FC 0.
South United FC 4 (Ishaan Sahi 36, 67, Md. Altab Hussain 75, Nikhil Mali 85) bt Bangalore Independents FC 1 (Mahin P. Hussain 90+5).

Alchemy IFA has it easy

Alchemy IFA beat Indian Football Factory 3-0 in The Amateur League (TAL) football season 12 conference A here on Sunday.

Other results: Titans FC bt Rebels FC 2-0; Gremio FC bt BBFS Academy 3-0.

Warriors SC makes merry at Gameon HC's expense

Warriors SC thrashed Gameon HC 6-0 in the KSHA-BHA C-division hockey league here on Sunday. In another match, Coorg Direwolves edged out Haveri District HA 2-1.

On Saturday: Haveri District HA bt Bengaluru Blues HC 5-2; Warriors SC bt Zenith HC 7-0.

Anusha shines as SWR gets the better of Devanga

Anusha top-scored with 25 points as South Western Railway defeated Devanga 93-36 in a women's category match of the State Association Cup basketball tournament here on Sunday.

The results: MNK Rao 44 (Pragya 14, Ayati 14) bt Nationals Mysore 35; Rajmahal 78 (Aadya 24, Aishwarya 23) bt Southern Blues 52 (Nidhi 22); DYES Mysore 64 (Brunda 16, Meghana 13) bt Koramangala 14.
MCHS 38 (Akshaya 13, Zara 8) bt Mysore Ballers 12; SW Railway 93 (Anusha 25, Mohanbala 12) bt Devanga 36 (Dhriti 16); DYES Vijaypura 45 (Sakshi 34) bt HBRBA 34 (Preeti 11); DYES Mandya 47 bt Dominants Chickmagalur 13.

GO HATCHIN' THIS FESTIVE SEASON
90% ON-ROAD FUNDING
EMI@ ₹9999/-*
ATTRACTIVE FESTIVE BENEFITS
UPTO ₹34 000/-*
FUEL EFFICIENCY OF 22.94 km/l**
TOYOTA
THE COOL NEW TOYOTA GLANZA
*Terms and conditions apply. ** Under the process of certification as per Rule 115(G) of CMVR 1989.
THE COOL TOYOTA GLANZA | GO HATCHIN' Go Awesome
POWER OF 89.7 PS (89 HP)
6 AIRBAGS
360-DEGREE VIEW
TOYOTA FINANCIAL SERVICES
Toyota Mobility Service
TOYOTA U TRUST
24x7 ROADSIDE ASSISTANCE
UNMATCHED WARRANTY* 3 years / 100000 kms
Bangalore: Nandi Toyota, Banashankari 2nd Stage Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Banaswadi Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Bannerghatta Main Road Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Bommanahalli Ph: 7022340713; Nandi Toyota, Hosur Road Ph: 9945255800; Nandi Toyota, Kanakapura Main Road Ph: 9740409858; Nandi Toyota, Queens Road Ph: 9741310066; Nandi Toyota, Whitefield Ph: 7022340713; Ravindu Toyota, K R Puram Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Magadi Road Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Marathahalli Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Rajajinagar Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Victoria Road Ph: 8058245555; Ravindu Toyota, Yeshwanthpur Ph: 8058245555; Viva Toyota, Airport Road, Hunasamarahalli Ph:9900030617; Viva Toyota, Hebbal Ph: 9900027736; Viva Toyota, Kogilu, Yelahanka Ph: 9900030617; Viva Toyota, Mysore Road Ph: 9900030620; Viva Toyota, Vidayaranyapura Ph: 9900027736; Bagalkot: Shodha Toyota, Navnagar Ph: 8147599463; Belgaum: Shodha Toyota, Shahapur Ph: 8147599461; Shodha Toyota, Poona-Bangalore Road Ph: 9035246694; Bellary: BJS Toyota, Bisalahalli Road Ph: 7829927943; Bijapur: Shodha Toyota, Chitradurga Sholapur road Ph: 9606484983; Chikkamagaluru: Shakti Toyota, Kadur Bypass Road Ph: 9686652728; Davangere: Shodha Toyota, Old Pune-Bangalore Road Ph: 9008952277; Gulbarga: Karuna Toyota, Bilgundi Garden Ph: 7829990025; Hassan: Shakti Toyota, Katihalli Industrial Area Ph: 9686652728; Hospet: BJS Toyota, Rajeev Nagar Ph: 7829927943; Hubli: Shodha Toyota, Hubli-Dharwad Road Ph: 9740089901; Kodagu: Palace Toyota, Kushalnagara Ph: 7022671919; Kolar: Ravindu Toyota, P C Halli Ph: 9606090040; Madikeri: Palace Toyota, Cauvery Hall Ph: 7022671919; Mandya: Palace Toyota, Guttalu Grama Ph: 95388 74907; Mangalore: United Toyota, Bunt's Hostel Ph: 9686687581, United Toyota, Padil Ph: 9686687581; Mysore: Palace Toyota, Hootagalli Ph: 9538874906; Palace Toyota, Krishnamurthy Puram Ph: 9538874923; Raichur: Near Yermers Camp Cross, Hyderabad Rd. Ph: 7829990021; Shivamogga: Shakti Toyota, Bypass Road Ph: 9686652728; Tumkur: Ravindu Toyota, Sadashivnagar Ph: 9379189796; Udupi: United Toyota, Udyavara Ph: 9686687581.